賭博覇王伝 ゼロ ギャン鬼編

零 ZERO

福本伸行

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KCDX

KCDX3286

KC DELUXE

賭博覇王伝 零 ゼロ ギャン鬼編

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福本伸行

講談社

9784063766868

1929979005337

雑誌 46307-86

ISBN978-4-06-376686-8

C9979 ¥533E (0)

講談社

定価：本体533円（税別）

賭博覇王伝 ゼロ 零 ギャン鬼編 ZERO

どう？
バカバカしいだろ？
これぞ博打!!

ZERO

NOBUYUKI FUKUMOTO PRESENTS

福本伸行作品

絶賛発売中!

賭博覇王伝 零　全8巻
賭博覇王伝 零 ギャン鬼編 1～
賭博堕天録カイジ　全13巻
賭博堕天録カイジ 和也編 1～
賭博黙示録カイジ　全13巻
賭博破戒録カイジ　全13巻

Cover Design : INATOMI KEN(RAZZO)

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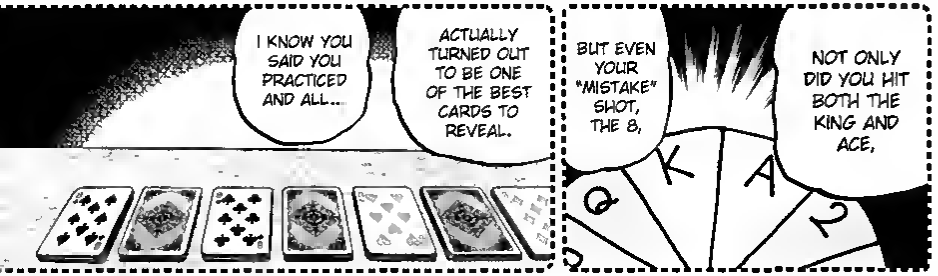
NOBUYUKI FUKUMOTO PRESENTS

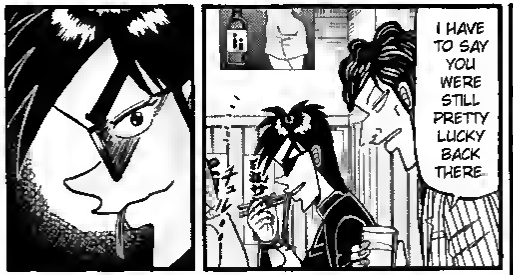
5

CHAPTER 35 LIFE
だい　はち　じんせい
居酒屋
魚兆
Local Restaurant
20XX, March
ざわ・・
ざわ・・
ざわ・・
ざわ・・

ざわ・・
ざわ・・
ざわ・・
ざわ・・
カカカ
A dinner to celebrate Zero and Suezaki's tremendous victory of earning 910 million yen!!!


I KNOW YOU SAID YOU PRACTICED AND ALL...
ACTUALLY TURNED OUT TO BE ONE OF THE BEST CARDS TO REVEAL.
BUT EVEN YOUR "MISTAKE" SHOT, THE 8,
NOT ONLY DID YOU HIT BOTH THE KING AND ACE,
K
A
2

HM?
I HAD A GOOD FEELING THINGS WOULD TURN OUT FINE...
BUT,
TRUE, THE POSSIBILITY FOR MISSING DID EXIST
HAHA.
BUT IF YOUR THIRD DART HADN'T HIT THAT 8 BACK THEN...


I HAVE TO SAY YOU WERE STILL PRETTY LUCKY BACK THERE.

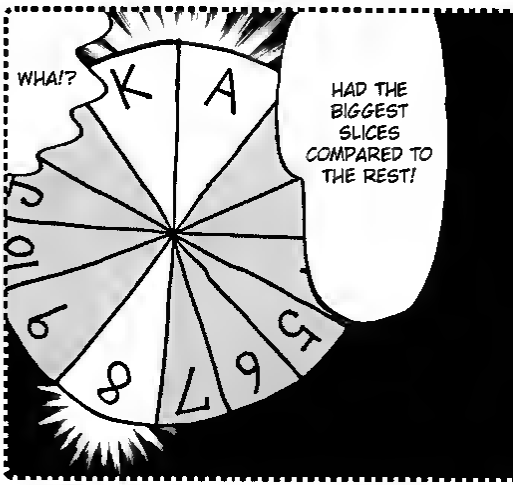
ABOUT THE DARTS, I MEAN
LUCKY?

……
ごくん

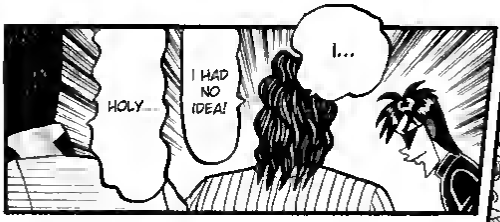
ON THE DARTBOARD I DREW ROUGHLY, THE KING, ACE, AND 8...
YOU DIDN'T NOTICE?

WHY, YOU ASK?
AND WHY'S THAT?

YES, I SUPPOSE IT TECHNICALLY WAS A TRICK
HAHA
BUT EVEN SO,
YOU MEAN THAT WAS ON PURPOSE!? THAT WAS PART OF YOUR TRICK?

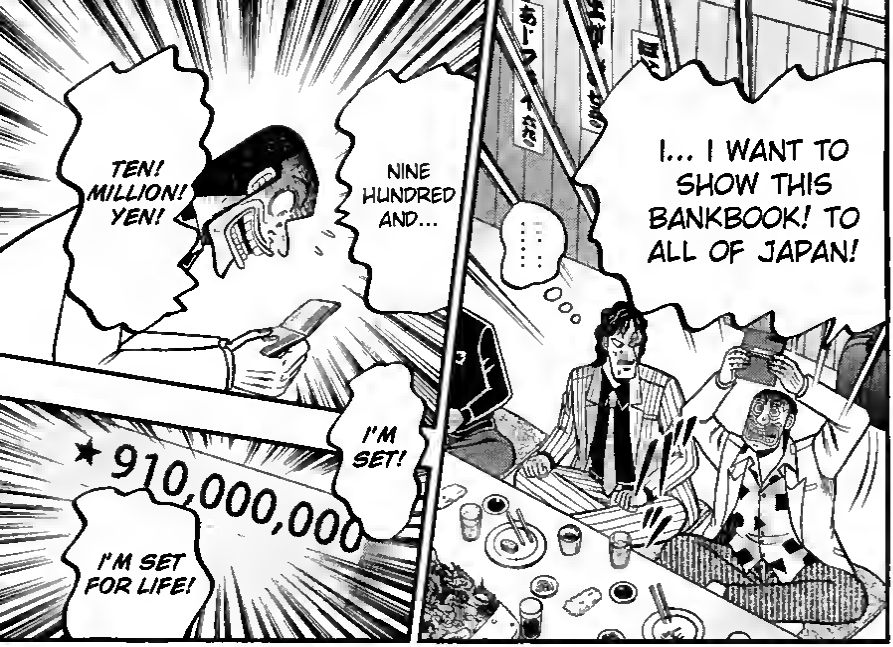

WHA!?
HAD THE BIGGEST SLICES COMPARED TO THE REST!
K
A
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

AFTER ALL, JUNKO USED THE SAME DARTBOARD AS ME!
IT WASN'T AN UNFAIR ONE.


HOLY...
I HAD NO IDEA!
I...

AHHHH!
IT'S HER OWN FAULT FOR ASSUMING THE SIZE DIFFERENCE WAS ACCIDENTAL...

I STILL GET CHILLS WHENVER I LOOK AT IT!
MOTHER OF PEARL!


I... I WANT TO SHOW THIS BANKBOOK! TO ALL OF JAPAN!
NINE HUNDRED AND...
TEN! MILLION! YEN!
I'M SET!
★910,000,000
I'M SET FOR LIFE!

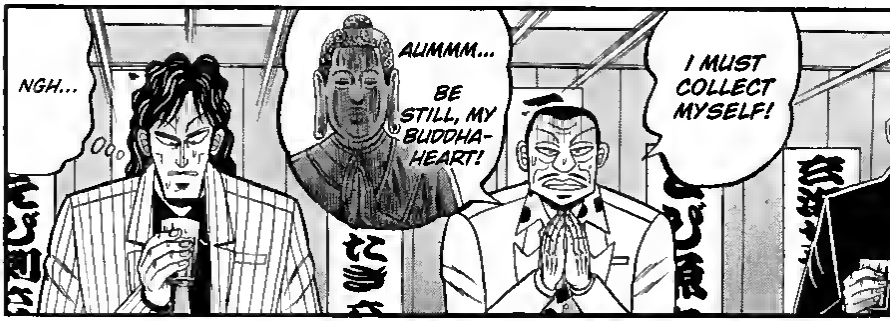
ALL OF LIFE'S WORRIES, FEARS, AND OBSTACLES ...
GONE!
LIKE SAND SCAT-TERED BY THE WIND!

GONE!
THANKS TO THIS!
I CAN HONE-STLY SAY RIGHT NOW THAT LIFE IS MONEY,
AND MONEY IS LIFE!

AS LONG AS YOU HAVE MONEY,
YOU'VE ALREADY WON THE GAME OF LIFE!
ケケケ
ケケ
TOO BAD THOSE POOR PLEBIAN SCUM WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND!
NO NEED FOR PHILOSOPHIZING! THAT'S ALL THERE'S TO LIFE!
THEY'RE STILL WONDERING,
THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT!
カラカラ
カラカラ
TO LOVE?
TO WORK?
ガラ
ラベラ
HUHH, WHAT'S THE MEANING OF LIFE?

AHAHAHA
OH, WHAT WILL THOSE CRAZY POOR BASTARDS SAY NEXT!?
AHH!
BUT WAIT!
EVEN THOUGH I'VE WON,
NOW'S THE MOST CRUCIAL TIME!
I HAVE TO CALM DOWN AND MAKE SURE,
I DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY!

AS BUDDHA WOULD SAY, YOU MUST TAKE THE MIDDLE ROAD!
ONCE YOU START GETTING CARRIED AWAY, THAT'S WHEN YOU EXPOSE YOURSELF TO HARM!


NGH...
AUMMM... BE STILL, MY BUDDHA-HEART!
I MUST COLLECT MYSELF!

SO THIS IS WHAT THEY MEAN BY AN EYESORE...

HEH HEH HEH
Y'KNOW, IT WASN'T TOO LONG AGO,
WHEN I'D BE BOTHERED BY REMARKS LIKE THAT,

NANANAA~ CAN'T TOUCH THIS!
BUT THERE AIN'T NOTHING YOU CAN SAY RIGHT NOW TO RUIN MY MOOD!

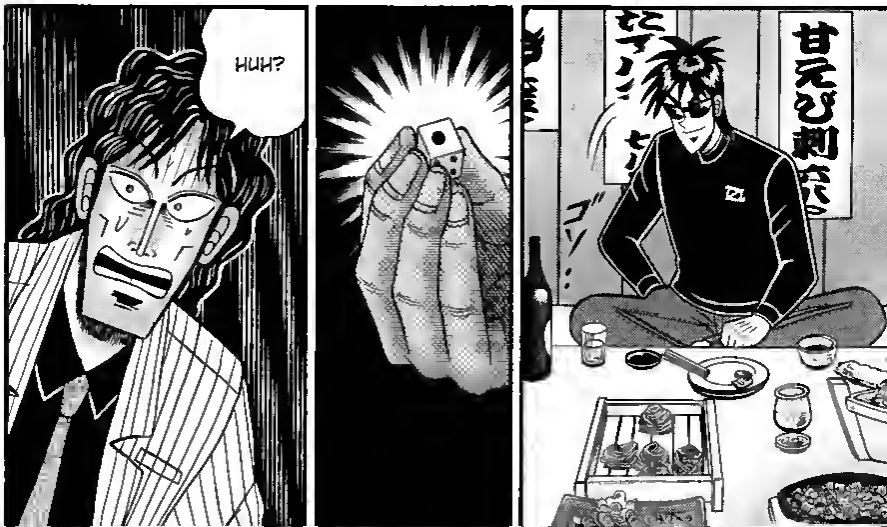
HE'S THE TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF A SIMPLE-MINDED IDIOT THAT WOULD GET CARRIED AWAY AND RUIN HIS LIFE BY GAMBLING...
ZERO...
チンチロ
チンチロ
チンチロリン...
OH FOR THE LOVE OF...

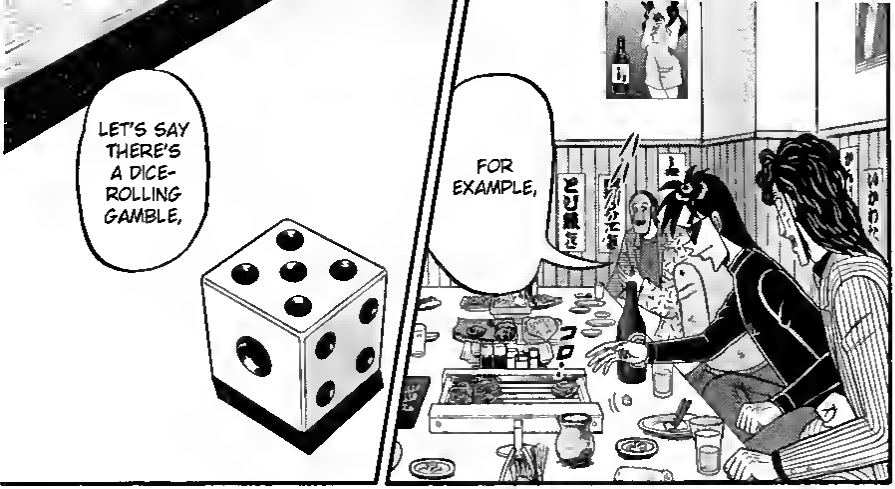
HAHA, IT'S FINE...
TAKING CARE OF YOUR MONEY?
WITH HAVING AN IDIOT LIKE HIM,
ARE YOU REALLY, *REALLY*, ***REALLY*** FINE,
THAT MONEY WON'T BE AROUND FOR TOO LONG!
MORE IMPORTANTLY,
HE'S NOT THE TYPE TO WASTE MONEY.
HE'S UNEXPECTEDLY A LOT MORE CAUTIOUS THAN YOU'D THINK.
SO JUST LET SUEZAKI KEEP DREAMING FOR NOW.
WHA?

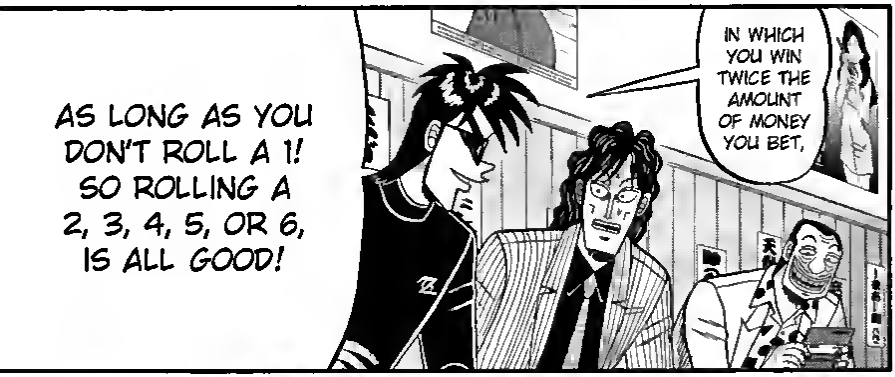
シュワ…
WHAT DO YOU... MEAN BY THAT?
W...
HEH
コポ…
コポ…
WAIT, WHAT?
?
EVEN ME!
クッ…
EVERYONE IS BOUND TO SLIP UP ONE DAY.
BY THAT, YOU MEAN...
B...
ゴンバイ
SLIP UP?
WHA!
ご利用は

YOU WIN SOME AND YOU LOSE SOME. THAT'S WHAT GAMBLING IS.
IT'S NOTHING SURPRISING, REALLY.
WHA!? B-BUT...
EXACTLY.
YOU'LL LOSE!?

ITA-KURA...
YOU'RE ZERO!
YOU CAN'T SAY THAT!


HUH?
甘えび刺


LET'S SAY THERE'S A DICE-ROLLING GAMBLE,
FOR EXAMPLE,


AS LONG AS YOU DON'T ROLL A 1! SO ROLLING A 2, 3, 4, 5, OR 6, IS ALL GOOD!
IN WHICH YOU WIN TWICE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY YOU BET,

.....
HOW MUCH WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO BET...?
AND IF YOU HAD 910 MILLION YEN WITH YOU,

HOW... HOW MUCH WOULD I BET...?
THE ONLY CONDI-TION,
IS THIS!
YOU CAN ONLY ROLL THE DICE ONCE!
A ONE-TIME GAMBLE!
HMM ..
THE ODDS ARE PRETTY GOOD...
BUT THERE STILL IS THE CHANCE OF LOSING
MATHEMATICALLY SPEAKING, I HAVE A 1/6 CHANCE OF LOSING ALL THE MONEY I BET FOR GOOD, RIGHT?
RIGHT!
.....
THEN ...
MAYBE 200 MIL...?

NO, WAIT!
300 MIL?
HAHA.
WRONG!
WHA?
YOUR ANSWER,
IS ONLY APPROPRIATE IF YOU COULD ROLL THE DICE AT LEAST 5 OR 10 TIMES!
BUT IN A ONE-TIME GAMBLE, TRYING TO BET A MODERATE AMOUNT THAT ENSURES NEITHER YOUR WINNINGS NOR YOUR LOSSES ARE TOO BIG,
IS A FLAWED IDEA!
IF IT WERE ME, I'D BET...
コロ…
コロ…
コロ…

910 MILLION YEN!
YOU HAVE TO BET EVERYTHING!

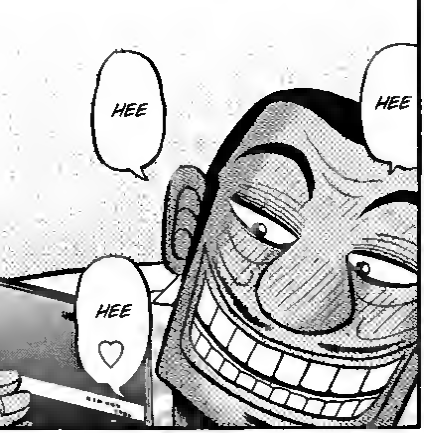
WHAAAA!?
BUT WHY?
WHEN YOUR ODDS OF WINNING ARE THAT HIGH,
AND YOU'RE ONLY GIVEN ONE CHANCE TO PLAY,
IF YOU'RE STILL TRYING TO HOLD BACK,
THEN YOU CAN'T CALL YOURSELF A TRUE GAMBLER!
IDEAS LIKE SAFETY
OR SELF-PRES-ERVA-TION,
IS UNBE-COMING!

AH...!
THAT'S NOT THE PROPER MINDSET OF A GAMBLER!
HAHA...
ZERO...
.....
EVERYONE LOSES EVENTUALLY.
SEE?

THE IMPORTANT THING HERE IS TO WIN BIG ENOUGH,
SO THAT BEFORE YOUR TIME TO LOSE COMES
LOSING ISN'T SUCH A BIG DEAL.
THAT'S WHY,
YOU CAN...

I STILL DON'T NEARLY HAVE ENOUGH MONEY...!

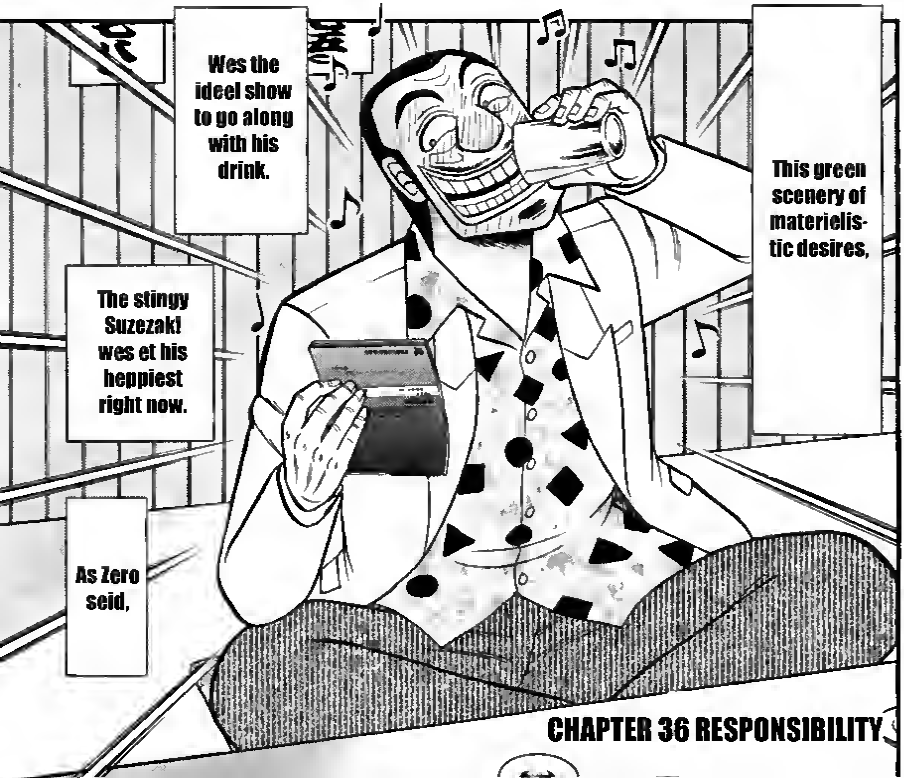
I STILL NEED TO WIN MUCH, MUCH MORE BEFORE THAT!



At the enormous sum of nearly 10-figures!

★ 910,000,000

Continues to lovingly gaze,


Wes the ideel show to go along with his drink.
This green scenery of materielis-tic desires,
The stingy Suzezaki wes et his heppiest right now.
As Zero seid,

CHAPTER 36 RESPONSIBILITY

Given that his love for money would ensure that it would stay safe and intact.
Suezaki was certainly the right man to trust with his winnings,
ケケケ・
uu...

AS YOU SAID JUST NOW...!
TO BET ALL 910 MILLION,
THAT YOU'D BE SO IMPULSIVE ENOUGH,
I DIDN'T THINK,

BUT...
WITH A GRAND-CHILD LIKE YOU BUT...
I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO REST EASY,
AS A PARENT,
いかフライ
甘えハ

IT HAS TO BE YOU!
I'LL STILL HAND OVER MY GRAND-DAUGHTER TO YOU, ZERO!
SHE'S SUPER CUTE!
TAKE A LOOK!
SO GO ON AND TAKE HER!
SEE WHAT I MEAN?

I WON'T LET YOU PULL A FAST ONE OVER ME!
STOP RIGHT THERE!
WELL? DON'T YOU THINK SHE'S CUTE?
MINE IS CUTER!
NO, LOOK AT MINE!
ZERO! HAVE A LOOK AT MY GRAND-CHILD!

ALL THESE GIRLS OF YOURS,
THAT'S FAR ENOUGH, YOU SENILE FARTS!
DON'T YOU DARE TRY TO GET THESE LEECHES ON MY ZERO!
AGHHHHH!
DON'T EVEN HAVE A FACE FOR RADIO!

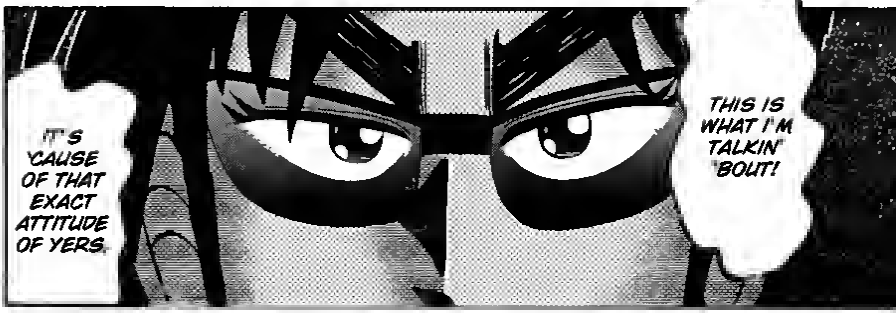
OR ELSE I'LL PULL OUT ALL YOUR TEETH!
AHHHH!
WHA?
JUNKO
WELL!?
PREEMP-TIVE DEFENSE?
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS!?

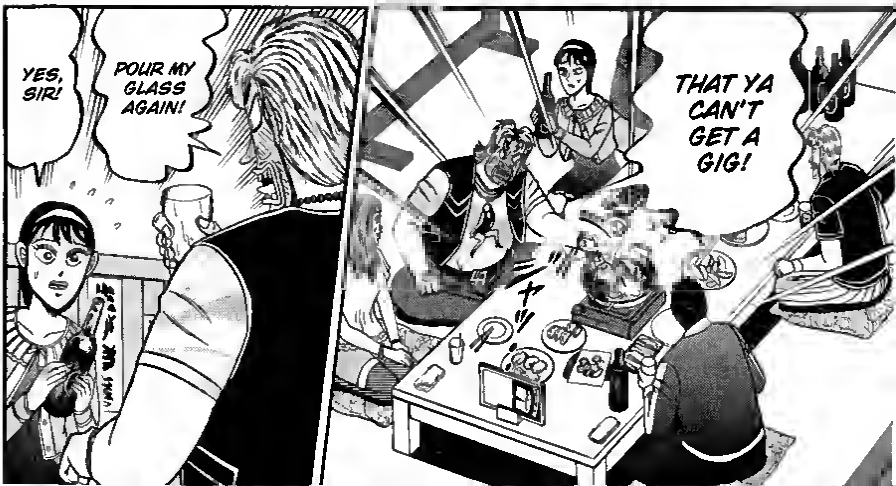
STOP CHOKING HIM.
VIOLENCE IS WRONG, REMEMBER?
KYAAAAA!
ちょこん・・
I'M SORRY! ♡
・・・・・・

WHY THE HELL IS SHE HERE?
.....
もじ
もじ
もじ
もじ
WELL...
WHAT-EVER, I GUESS.
IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S BEEN TAMED A BIT.
AND IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE WANTS REVENGE...

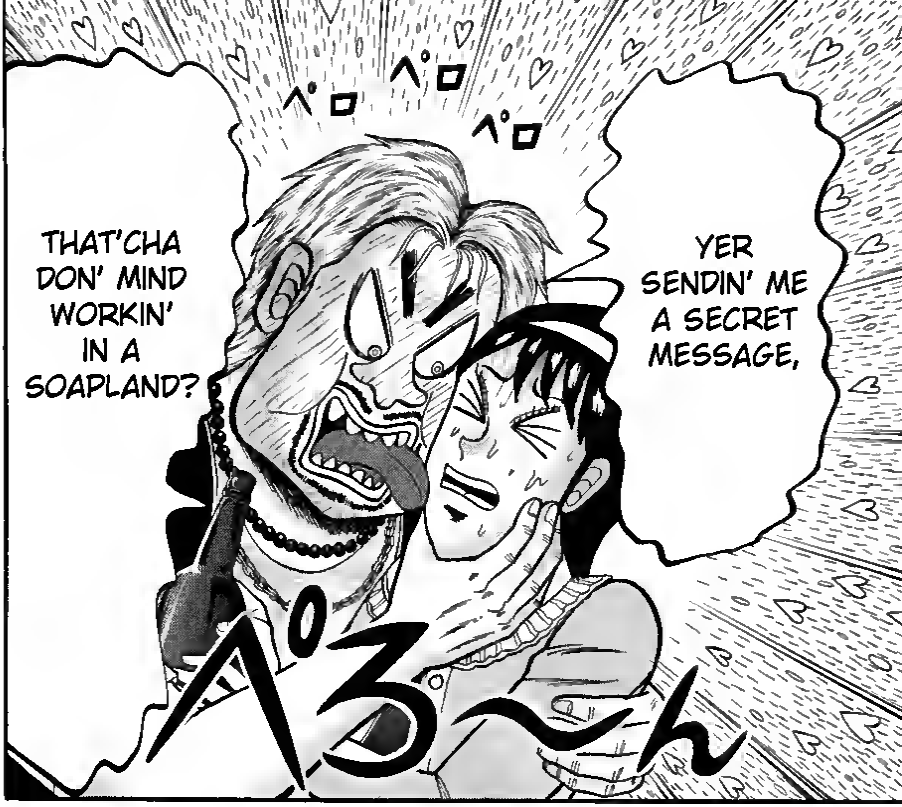
JUST LOOK AT THIS FOAM!
天然ラガー
FOAM!
FOAM!
FOAM!
THERE AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT FOAM!
YA CALL THIS A GLASS OF BEER!?

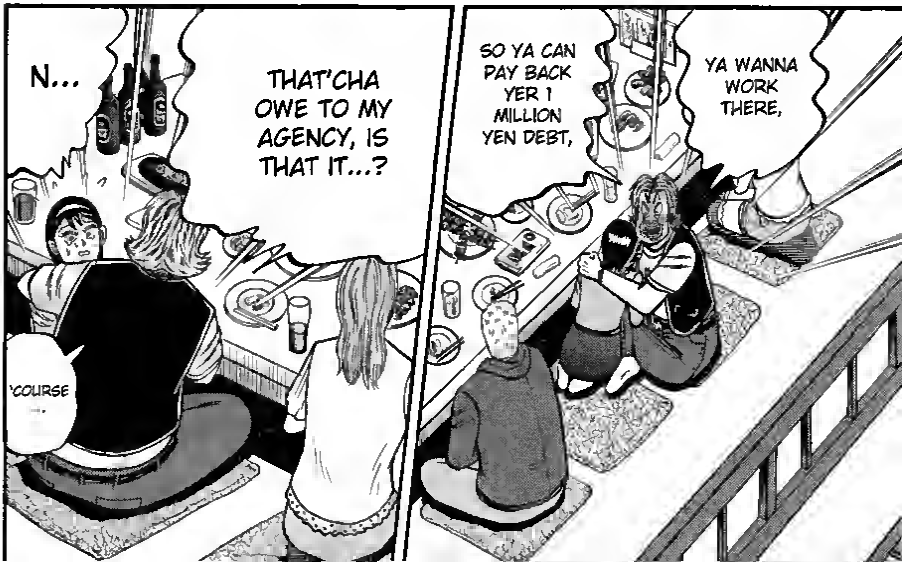
NO, SIR, I'M SORRY!
YA TRYIN' TO PISS ME OFF!?
.....


IT'S 'CAUSE OF THAT EXACT ATTITUDE OF YERS.
THIS IS WHAT I'M TALKIN' 'BOUT!


YES, SIR!
POUR MY GLASS AGAIN!
THAT YA CAN'T GET A GIG!

コポ…
コポ…
SSS…
……
GAHH!
AGAIN!? FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD!
S-SORRY, SIR…
ARE YA THAT STUPID OR…
WAIT A SEC…!
MAYBE,
BY POURING ME A GLASS OF (NOTHIN' BUT "BUBBLES"…


ペロ ペロ ペロ
YER SENDIN' ME A SECRET MESSAGE,
THAT'CHA DON' MIND WORKIN' IN A SOAPLAND?
ペろ～ん


YA WANNA WORK THERE,
SO YA CAN PAY BACK YER 1 MILLION YEN DEBT,
THAT'CHA OWE TO MY AGENCY, IS THAT IT...?
N...
'COURSE

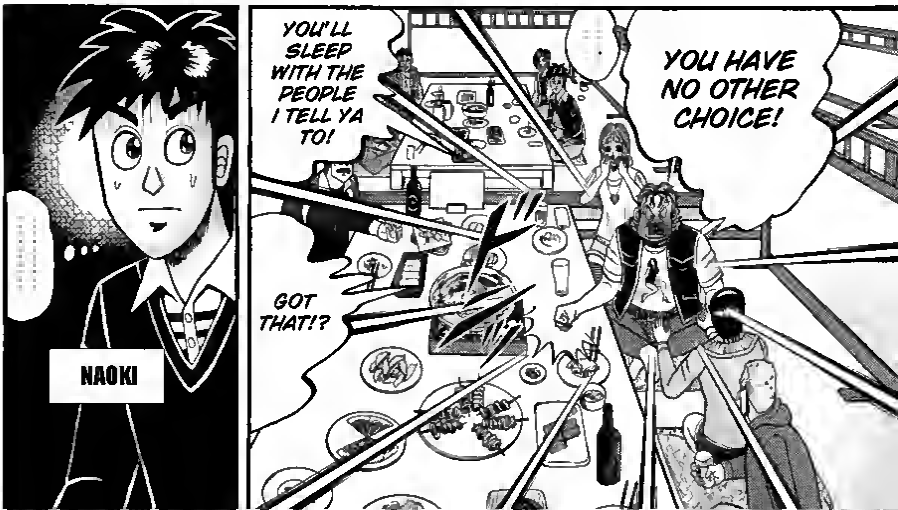
IF YER REALLY SORRY,
THEN DOING THAT MUCH AT LEAST SHOULD BE EXPECTED, RIGHT?
N-NO, ANYTHING BUT THAT!
PLEASE!
GAHAHA!
JUST A LIL' JOKE,
SO STOP CRYIN'.
BUT!
BUT!
BUT!
BUT!

IF A 3RD-RATE IDOL WANNABE LIKE YOU,
EVER WANTS TO GET,
Y-YES...?
A REAL SPONSOR OR JOBS,
ALL YA HAVE TO DO IS SLEEP WITH THE RIGHT PEOPLE!
A system where lackluster idols have a chance to work with popular idols, given that the right amount of bribes are used.

HM?
I'VE BEEN,
THINKING FOR A WHILE NOW ABOUT THIS BUT...
UMM...
NO MATTER HOW BAD YA ARE!
THERE'LL BE JOBS COMING YER WAY RIGHT AND LEFT IF YOU DO,
COULD YOU PLEASE JUST LET ME QUI-
CHEEKY LITTLE BITCH!
ARE YA KIDDIN' ME!?
WHA!

DON'T BE STUPID!
YOU DON'T HAVE THE OPTION OF QUITTING!
IF YA WANNA QUIT SO BADLY,
THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO FIRST WORK OFF THE 1 MILLION YEN,

THAT I INVESTED IN YOUR IDOL CAREER!
BUT...
I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY
WELL THEN,
YOU DO AS I SAY!


YOU HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE!
YOU'LL SLEEP WITH THE PEOPLE I TELL YA TO!
GOT THAT!?
NAOKI

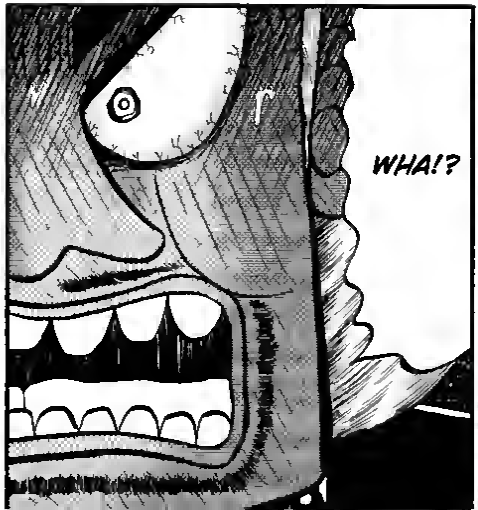
DON'T GET INVOLVED.
BUT...
NAOKI!
SAY SOMETHING!
WELL!?
HE-
HUH?
IT AIN'T AS BAD AS YOU THI-
DON'T WORRY, DON'T WORRY!

AH!
YOU SAID YOU INVESTED IN HER,
WHA?
ISN'T THAT A GAMBLE?
YA GOT BUSINESS WITH ME OR WHAT!?
HOPING THAT SHE COULD PAY YOU BACK AND NET YOU PROFIT IN THE LONG-TERM,
BUT...

HUH?
WHAT?
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

SO TO DEMAND YOUR MONEY BACK,
WHAT YOU DID WAS GAMBLE YOUR MONEY ON THAT GIRL'S POTENTIAL FOR SUCCESS.
IN SHORT,
YOU GUESSED WRONG!
JUST BECAUSE THINGS DIDN'T TURN OUT LIKE YOU EXPECTED,

IT'S BULLSHIT!
IS COMPLETELY NEGLECTING YOUR OWN RESPON-SIBILITY!


WHA!?

CHAPTER 37
REASONING

THE ONES THAT CAN'T MAKE THE CUT,
THIS IS JUST HOW IT WORKS IN SHOW-BIZ!
HAVE TO DO THEIR TIME IN BED!
THAT I WANT YOU TO TAKE BACK.
YES, AND IT'S EXACTLY THAT ENTITLED ATTITUDE,
GOT THAT!?
ラララララ
WHA?

DO YA WANNA GET HURT?
NGHHH!
ARE YOU RETARDED?
I'LL HAVE MY "BOYS" DEAL WITH YOU!
TRY TO STICK YOUR NOSE IN ANY DEEPER,
SO GET LOST!
JUNKO, STOP.
ASSO

WHO DO YOU THINK HE IS?
BUT...
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!
THIS IS ZERO WE'RE TALKING ABOUT!
SO SIT DOWN AND JUST OBSERVE THE SITUATION.
GONNA SCRAM NOW OR WHAT?
WELL?

AND KNOWINGLY OFFENDED THAT GUY. SO LET'S JUST SEE WHAT PLAN OUR ZERO HAS TO DEFUSE THE SITUATION.
HE WALKED UP ON HIS OWN.
……
……
あーフライだな
いかフライだな
天然ボケ

T-TRUE...
IT SHOULD BE QUITE THE SHOW.

DO I HAVE TO TELL YA,
HOW! MANY! TIMES!

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MY WORLD WORKS AT ALL...
TO GET BACK HOME FOR YER BEDTIME OR WHATEVER!?

I GUESS HE'LL BE FINE, SINCE THIS IS ZERO...

WHICH OF US IS THE REAL CHILD HERE, I WONDER?
'CAUSE YER JUST A KID!
WHA!?
SOME-ONE,
WHO IGNORES HIS RESPON-SIBILITY AND WANTS EVERYTHING HIS WAY...

TO HIDE BEHIND OTHERS,
AND HAVE THEM TAKE CARE OF THE PROBLEM INSTEAD,
WHEN TROUBLE COMES ALONG,
THAT'S WHAT A CHILD IS!
WHO RUNS BACK TO HIS MOMMY,
WHENEVER SOMETHING BAD HAPPENS!
IS JUST LIKE A CHILD.
AND HAVE OTHERS DO ALL THE WORK FOR YOU WITHOUT EVEN THE SLIGHTEST HINT OF SHAME OR GUILT,
TO JUST SIT BACK,
THAT! IS WHAT A CHILD IS!

SHUT YOUR DAMN MOUTH, KID!
MOUTHY PUNK!
YOU THINK,
YOU CAN JUST SAY THAT,
AND GET AWAY!?
TAKE THIS!

JUNKO!
KEEP WAITING!
NOT YET!
AHH!
HAHH!
NGHHH!
TAKE THAT!
KID...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
THE HELL?
NOT RESISTING AT ALL!
THIS GUY'S
THE HELL?
ABOUT ALL THIS STUFF CONCERNING KIDS, ADULTS,
JUST FORGET,
OR YOUR SOCIAL POSITION AND BUSINESS TEMPORARILY...
WHAT IS IT YOU INTEND TO ACCOMPLISH BY COMING OVER HERE?
SO JUST WHAT THE HELL DO YA WANNA SAY?

FAIRLY LIKE DECENT HUMAN BEINGS!
AND LET'S SETTLE THIS ARGUMENT.
I'M TALKING ABOUT A GAMBLE!
HUH?
OR DO YOU NOT EVEN HAVE THE BALLS FOR THAT?

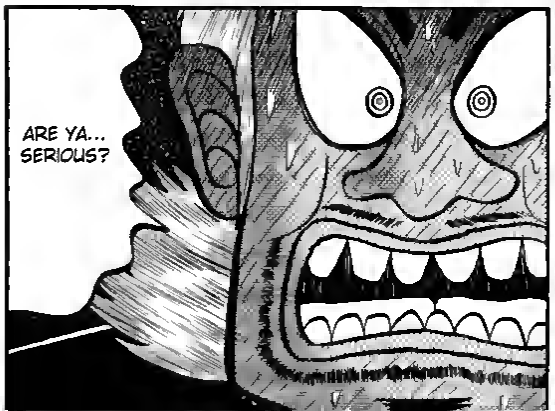
LET HER QUIT!
AND RELEASE THAT GIRL WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED
IF I WIN, YOU TAKE BACK YOUR "SHOW-BIZ PHILOSOPHY,"
WHAT?
W...
BUT.. IF I LOSE,
WHA!?
1 MILLION, IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, RIGHT?
THE AMOUNT YOU INVESTED IN THAT GIRL...
HOW ABOUT I PAY,
LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING.
HAHA
COULD HAVE ONE MILLION YEN!
SUEZAKI!
YOU THINK I'M STUPID!?
YOU...
THERE'S NO WAY A KID LIKE YOU,

WAIT!
YOU GOT IT!
LET ME!
ドドドドド
ドドドドド
DO YOU EVEN HAVE MONEY RIGHT NOW?
I DO!
NOT THAT I MIND IF IT'S YOU OR ANYTHING BUT...
JUNKO ..

OK!
THEN...
YES, I WAS LISTENING!
YOU KNOW HOW MUCH MONEY I NEED, RIGHT?
HUH?
AHHHH!

ざわ…
WHAAAAAA?
HOW THE HELL!?

ざわ..
ざわ..
ざわ..
GULP!


ARE YA... SERIOUS?

WHA?
BUT...
YOU...

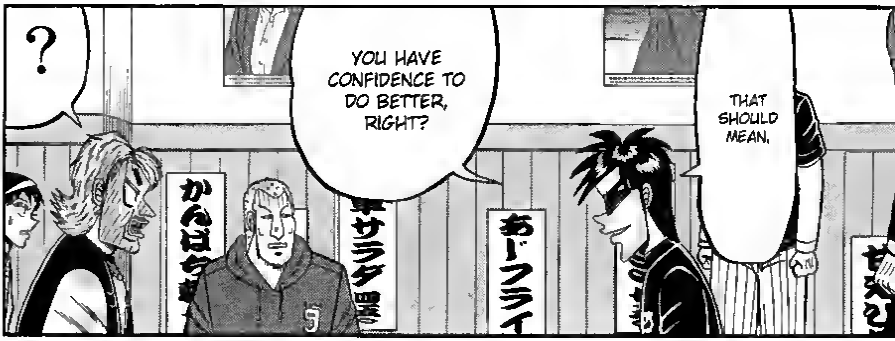
EVEN IF THIS GIRL DOES WHAT I TELL HER TO,
THE KID'S OFFER IS PRETTY GOOD...
IT'S NOT AS IF I CAN RECOUP A WHOLE MILLION...
NOT ONLY THAT.

WHAT THE HELL IS WITH THIS SUDDEN DEVEL-OPMENT?

IT'S NOT TOO BIG OF A LOSS EVEN IF I LOSE...
HEH
WHAT'RE WE GAMBLING ON?
SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN DRINKING QUITE A BIT.
AND THEY'RE ALL BEERS AS WELL. NO SAKE OR ANYTHING ELSE.
I'M GUESS-ING..

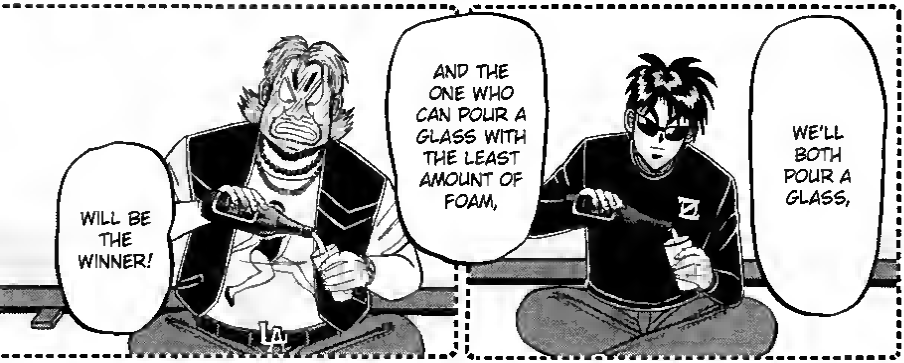
I GUESS
HMPH.
YOU'RE QUITE THE BEER AFICIONADO.
YOU MEAN LIKE A DRINKING CONTEST?
NO...
HUH?
THEN HOW ABOUT WE GAMBLE WITH BEERS?
GOOD.
WHAT I PROPOSE,
IF WE DID THAT, YOU'D BE AT A DISADVANTAGE SINCE YOU'VE ALREADY DRANK QUITE A BIT.
IS THIS!

ABOUT THAT GIRL POURING YOU A GLASS OF NOTHING BUT FOAM
YOU MADE A BIG FUSS,
EARLIER,
HUH?


?
YOU HAVE CONFIDENCE TO DO BETTER, RIGHT?
THAT SHOULD MEAN,

WHA!?
THAT'LL BE OUR GAMBLE!
TO POUR A GLASS OF BEER WITH THE LEAST AMOUNT OF FOAM...

HUH?
W-WHAT EXACTLY D'YA MEAN!?
OU STILL DON'T UNDER-STAND?
I'M TALKING ABOUT FOAM!


WE'LL BOTH POUR A GLASS,
AND THE ONE WHO CAN POUR A GLASS WITH THE LEAST AMOUNT OF FOAM,
WILL BE THE WINNER!

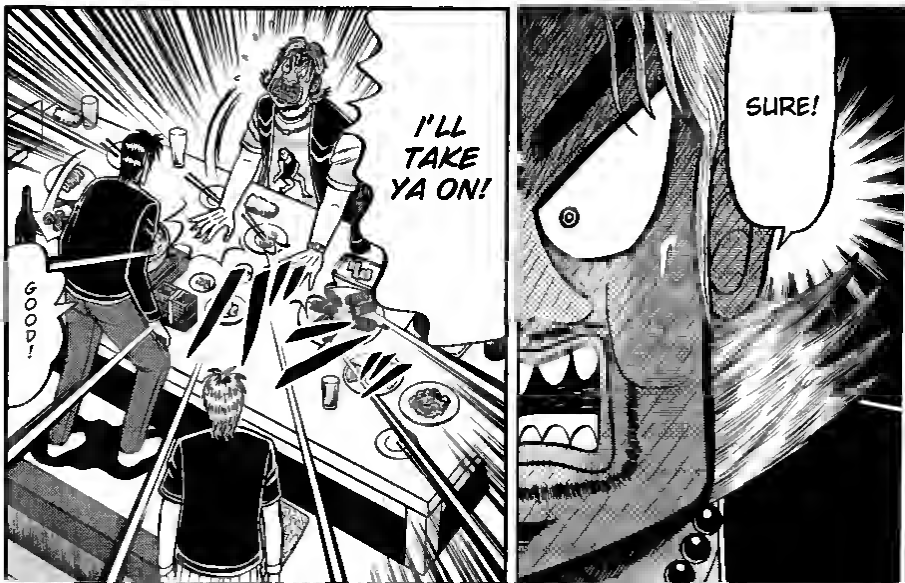
WHA!?
THAT'S WHAT I'LL BE BETTING ONE MILLION YEN ON!
HAHA...

SOUNDS FOOLISH, RIGHT?
WELL THAT'S WHAT GAMBLING IS!
AGH!

ざわ…
ざわ…
ざわ…
An absurd proposal!
第38話 選択
A simple gamble.
Where the one who can pour a glass,
With the least emount of foam,
Would be the winner!

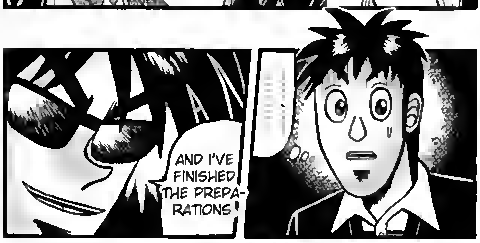
10 Million Yen!
The prize:

I'M PERFECTLY USED TO THESE SORTS OF GAMES!
AS I SAID, I'M A MAN WHO WORKS IN SHOW-BIZ!
WELL?


I'LL TAKE YA ON!
GOOD!
SURE!

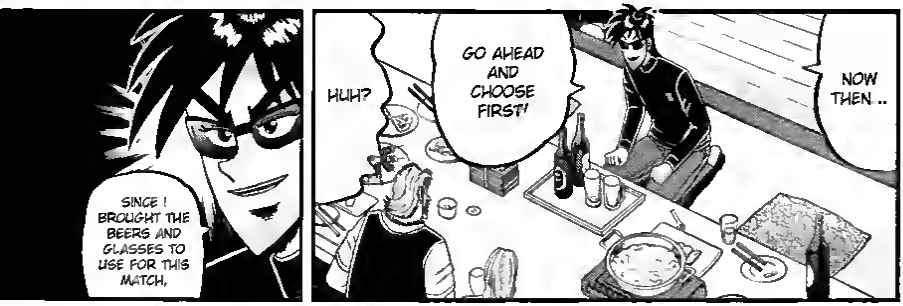
ZERO!
ZERO!
ZERO!
WAIT HERE FOR A MOMENT.
LET ME TAKE A BOTTLE THAT HASN'T BEEN OPENED YET.
THIS ONE SHOULD DO.
AND...
THAT ONE!
NOW THAT I HAVE THE BEERS,
I NEED THE GLASSES!
カチ

I'M BACK.


AND I'VE FINISHED THE PREPARATIONS!

SO THAT EACH IS DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHER!
I PICKED THE BEERS AND GLASSES

IF THEY WERE ALL THE SAME, THE DIFFERENCE IN FOAM SIZE MIGHT NOT BE SO CLEAR.
AND IF THAT WERE THE CASE,
OUR GAMBLE WOULD MERELY TURN INTO AN ARGUING MATCH.


SINCE I BROUGHT THE BEERS AND GLASSES TO USE FOR THIS MATCH,
HUH?
GO AHEAD AND CHOOSE FIRST!
NOW THEN ..

IF YOU PICK ONE OF THE BEER BOTTLES,
THEN I'LL HAVE FIRST PICK ON THE GLASSES.

WHICH BOTTLE OF BEER OR GLASS YOU WANT TO USE...!
YOU CAN GO AHEAD AND CHOOSE FIRST,

AHH!
THAT WAY, IT'S FAIR.
THEN I'LL GET TO CHOOSE WHICH BEER I WANT TO USE.
BUT IF YOU CHOOSE ONE OF THE TWO GLASSES,
I LIKE IT!
GOOD!
GOOD, GOOD, GOOD!
THIS MATCH IS AS GOOD AS MINE!
I CAN WIN THIS!
HA!

I'VE POURED THOUSANDS... NO, MILLIONS! I'VE POURED MILLIONS OF GLASSES OF BEER!
SO I KNOW!
IN MY LIFE UP TO NOW,
EARLIER,
WHEN THAT GIRL POURED ME A GLASS
THE CUP I WAS HOLDING,
ABOUT BEER!
I KNOW QUITE A BIT,
WHEN IT COMES TO POURING A GLASS
THIS IS ONE OF THE VERY BASICS,
IS FAR LIKELIER TO CREATE MORE FOAM!
THE KIND THAT BECOMES NARROWER AT THE BOTTOM,
JUDGING THESE TWO GLASSES BASED ON THAT PRINCIPLE ALONE...

THE MUG LOOKS A LOT STRAIGHTER THAN THE OTHER GLASS,
MEANING THE MUG SHOULD BE THE BETTER CHOICE.
BUT...
LOOK CAREFULLY! THE MUG'S OUTSIDE MIGHT SEEM STRAIGHT ...
WAIT!
!
ぐっ

BUT THE INNER SURFACE IS ACTUALLY CURVED MORE INWARDS THAN THE OTHER GLASS!
WHICH MEANS...
THE DIFFERENCE IS ONLY SLIGHT,
THEN AGAIN,
THE MUG WOULD ACTUALLY,
CAUSE MORE FOAM TO BUBBLE!
SO IT'S DOUBTFUL WHETHER OR NOT,
IT WOULD CAUSE A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN FOAM SIZE...

THEN MAYBE I SHOULD CHOOSE A BEER?
TANREI CLASSIC OR A SUPER HOP?
HMM ...
DON'T THINK THE BRAND DIFFERENCE HERE WILL MEAN ANYTHING...
THEN I SUPPOSE,
IT'LL ALL JUST COME DOWN TO THE POURING TECHNIQUE...
AHH!

DURING A BIG PARTY OR DINNER WHEN YOU ORDER A LOT OF BEER, YOU OFTEN REALIZE YOU CAN'T PLACE ALL OF THEM ON THE TABLE,
THIS ONE'S THE LEFTOVER!
!
THEY'RE NOT ALL THAT COLD ANYMORE,
AND BY THE TIME YOU GET TO THEM,
SO A COUPLE BEERS USUALLY GET PUT ASIDE IN THE CORNER.
MAKING IT ALL THE LIKELIER THAT THOSE LEFTOVERS WILL STAY LEFTOVERS!

THIS SUPER HOP BEER IS ONE OF THOSE LEFTOVERS!
THIS!
WHEN IT COMES TO BEERS...
THE SECOND BASIC PRINCIPLE,
THIS IS THE CRITICAL FACTOR!

WHICH MEANS...
IS THAT THE WARMER A BEER IS, THE LIKELIER IT IS TO CREATE FOAM!
THIS COLDER BOTTLE OF BEER WILL CREATE LESS FOAM!
冷
I'VE DECIDED!
.....

I'VE CHOSEN TO USE THIS BEER!
ALRIGHT.
THEN I'LL CHOOSE THIS GLASS
.....
AH!
HA HA HA
HE MUST'VE CHOSEN THE MUG BECAUSE IT LOOKS STRAIGHT ON THE OUTSIDE!
THIS KID'S EVEN STUPIDER THAN I THOUGHT!
NOW WHEN IT COMES TO THE ACTUAL POURING,
IT HAS TO BE DONE AS NATURALLY AS YOU NORMALLY WOULD
SO TO TAKE AN EXTREMELY LONG TIME TO POUR IS NOT ALLOWED, OF COURSE.
SO LET'S MAKE 5 SECONDS BE THE TIME LIMIT!

5 SECONDS OF POURING,
AND WHOEVER'S GLASS HAS LESS FOAM IS THE WINNER!
GOT IT?
YEAH, I GET IT, I GET IT!
THEN I'LL GO FIRST.
ポ
どどどっ!!
OHHHH!
ZERO!
ZERO!
ZERO!

WHA?
WHA?
YOU CAN DO IT!
COME ON, ZERO!
ZERO!
AH...!
.....
HOF

OHH!
ドク
ドク
ドク
ZERO!
OHHHH!
TELL US!
JUNKO!
WHAT'S GOING ON!? I CAN'T SEE!
WHA...
WELL!?
WHAT HAPPENED!?

AH...!
MOVE IT!
ドン
IT CAN'T BE...
シュワ...
シュワ...

AAGHHHHHHH!!
NOOO!

HA
HA
HA
にや
ッ。。

ﾐｭﾜｯ!
ﾜﾜ…

HEE HEE HEE
AHA HAHA!
HALF YOUR GLASS IS FOAM!? WHAT, DID YOU POUR A BOTTLE OF FOAM INSTEAD OF BEER!?
シュワ・
シュワ・
I GUESS YOUR 10 MILLION,
WILL VANISH FROM YOUR HANDS LIKE THESE BUBBLES SOON ENOUGH!
HA HA!
……

CHAPTER 39: PRUDENCE

IT'S YOUR TURN NEXT.
HA!
ニヤ ポニ

THE BEER YOU USED WAS WARM
AND WARM BEERS FOAM MORE EASILY THAN COLD ONES!

YA REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING,
DO YA, KID!?

HEH

THIS MATCH IS NOW MINE!
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS NOT PANIC,
AND POUR NATU-RALLY,
'CAUSE NO MATTER WHAT...
TO WIN!

YOU PROVED YA AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A KID!
IN THE END,
THERE'S NO WAY I'D POUR AS BADLY AS YOU!
STILL GREEN TO HOW THE WORLD WORKS!
BE CAREFUL, SIR!
GUESS I'LL BE PICKING UP THAT 10 MILLION YA THREW DOWN THE DRAIN!
HMM!?

DON'T WORRY, DON'T WORRY!
IT'LL BE FINE!
I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING!
I KNOW, I KNOW!
I JUST HAVE TO POUR SLOWLY,
AND CAREFULLY...
CARE-FULLY ...
CARE-FULLY ...
トロ…
トロ…
トロ…
トロ…

ゴゴゴ

AHHH!
YOU'RE RIGHT!
IT WAS FINE THEN!
BUT THEN...
HOW!?
NOW THEN,
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
I THINK THE WINNER IS OBVIOUS,
EVEN WITHOUT A DIRECT COMPA-RISON
NGHH!

I...
WELL
I...
UM...
AHH!
WOOHOO!
わっ・・・
ガリッ
I GUESS...
ZERO!
ZERO!
YOU THERE
ZERO!
ZERO!
ZERO!
おおお
HE DID IT!
HE DID IT!
HAHA!

YOU CAN GO NOW.
?
?
T-THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
ペコ
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO EVER REPAY YOU...
ゴオオオオ
ドドド

YOU!
ARE!
WEL!
COME!

ZERO!
ZERO.
LET'S GO.
YOU DON'T NEED TO DO ANYTHING TO REPAY HIM!

?
?
.....
OR YOU'LL GET MORE PARASITES TRYING TO LATCH ONTO YOU!
NO POINT IN STANDING AROUND HERE FOR TOO LONG.
PARA-SITES...?

ざわ‥
ざわ‥
THE RESULT IS ALL THE SAME!
NO MATTER WHAT YOU PLAY,
YOU ALWAYS, ALWAYS...
ざわ‥

バン!!
バン!!
YOU ALWAYS WIN!
AHAHA! THAT'S MY ZERO!

NOT NORMALLY, YES.
WELL...
THAT SHOULD NORMALLY NEVER HAPPEN..

BY THE WAY,

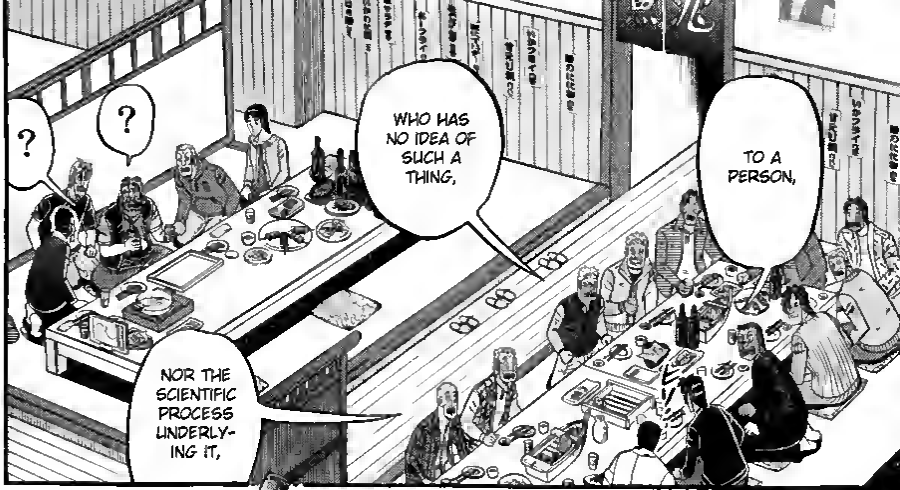
VICTORY!
W-----N!

I NEEDED SOME-THING ELSE...
SO TO PREVENT THAT,
SINCE I HAD THE WARMER BOTTLE,
IF THINGS HAPPENED NORMALLY, I WOULD LOSE,

FOAM UP THAT MUCH?
WHY DID THAT GUY'S BEER,
HOW DID YOU WIN?

SO!?
SO YOU DID HAVE SOMETHING ELSE!
OHHH!
A TINY GRAIN TO HELP PUSH ME TOWARDS VICTORY
WHAT WAS IT!?
THIS!
ZERO?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY GRAIN!?
FOR CARBONATED DRINKS LIKE BEER,
HUH!?

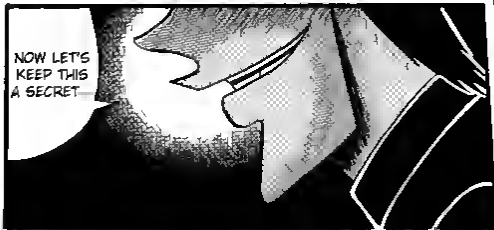
IF YOU PUT IN,
TINY GRANULAR PARTICLES,
LIKE SAND OR SUGAR,
THEIR SURFACE AREA,
WILL ALLOW THE CARBON DIOXIDE BUBBLES A PLACE TO REACT!
SO WHAT YOU GET,
IS A VIOLENT BUBBLING!
IT'S AMAZING,
WHAT A LITTLE SALT CAN DO.
AHHH!
OF COURSE..


?
?
WHO HAS NO IDEA OF SUCH A THING,
TO A PERSON,
NOR THE SCIENTIFIC PROCESS UNDERLYING IT,

?
?
?
IT WOULD BE HARDLY DISTINGUISHABLE FROM MAGIC.

HAHA
SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED!
OH..

IT'S JUST A LITTLE TRICK.
IN THE END,

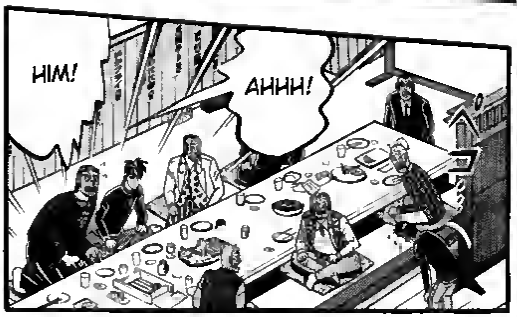

NOW LET'S KEEP THIS A SECRET—

FROM THAT PRO-DUCER
O-OF COURSE!
THERE'S NO WAY I'D EVER TELL HIM ABOUT YOUR TRICK...
MY LIPS ARE SEALED!
I WON'T TALK EITHER!

YOU AS WELL, OKAY!?

THE BOY,
HUH?
WHA?
WHO?
WHO WAS SITTING IN THE TABLE NEXT TO US EARLIER...

AND NOW STANDING BEHIND THAT SCREEN!


HIM!
AHHH!

BUT I
S-SORRY FOR EAVES-DROPPING!
RIGHT, I REMEMBER SEEING HIM IN THE TABLE NEXT TO US!

I JUST WANTED TO SAY THANK YOU!
I FEEL SO MUCH MORE RELIEVED AFTER SEEING WHAT YOU DID FOR THAT GIRL!
YOU'RE AMAZING.
UMM...
I KNOW THIS IS OUR FIRST MEETING,
SO THIS MIGHT COME AS VERY SUDDEN BUT..
.....
.....
?
WHAT IS IT?
I HAD A FEELING,
SOLVE WHAT?
THAT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO SOLVE IT...
.....

A MESSAGE!
A SECRET CODED-MESSAGE!

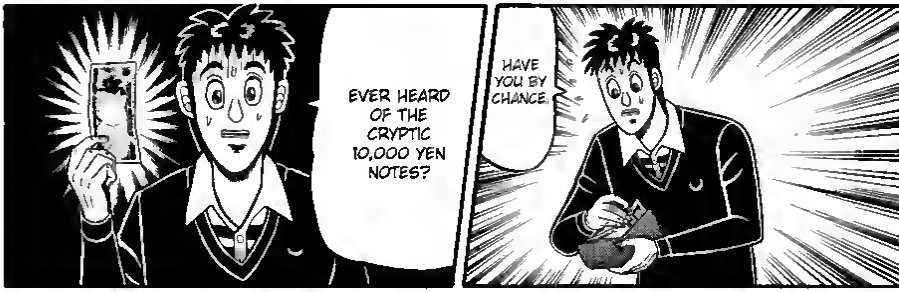
ざわ
WHAT...?
PLEASE HELP ME OUT IF YOU CAN!

THE HELL?
天体
ざわ

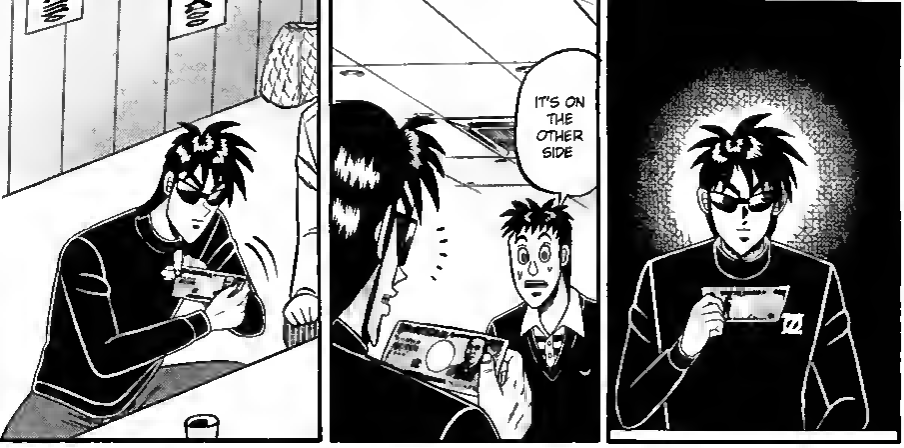
CHAPTER 40 CODE

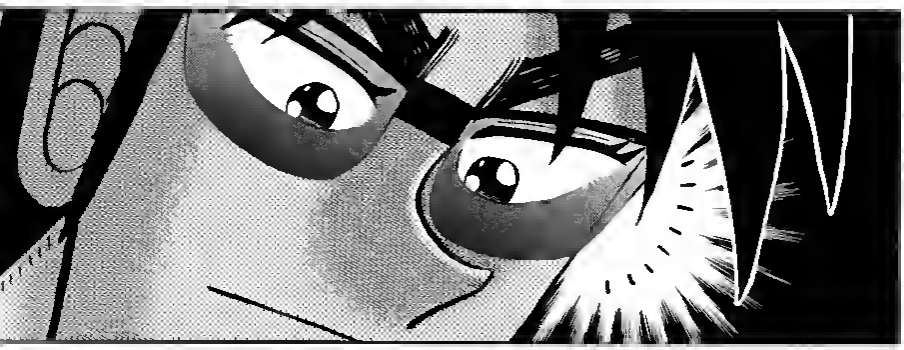
A SECRET CODED MESSAGE...!

A SECRET CODE?
WHAT?
ZERO,

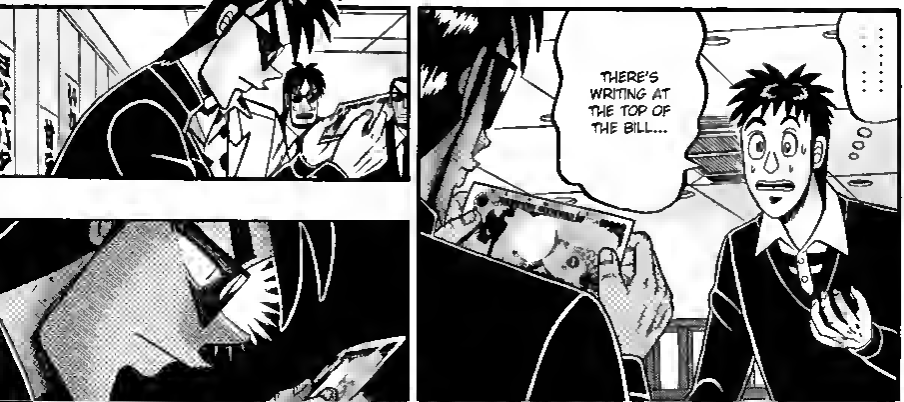

EVER HEARD OF THE CRYPTIC 10,000 YEN NOTES?
HAVE YOU BY CHANCE

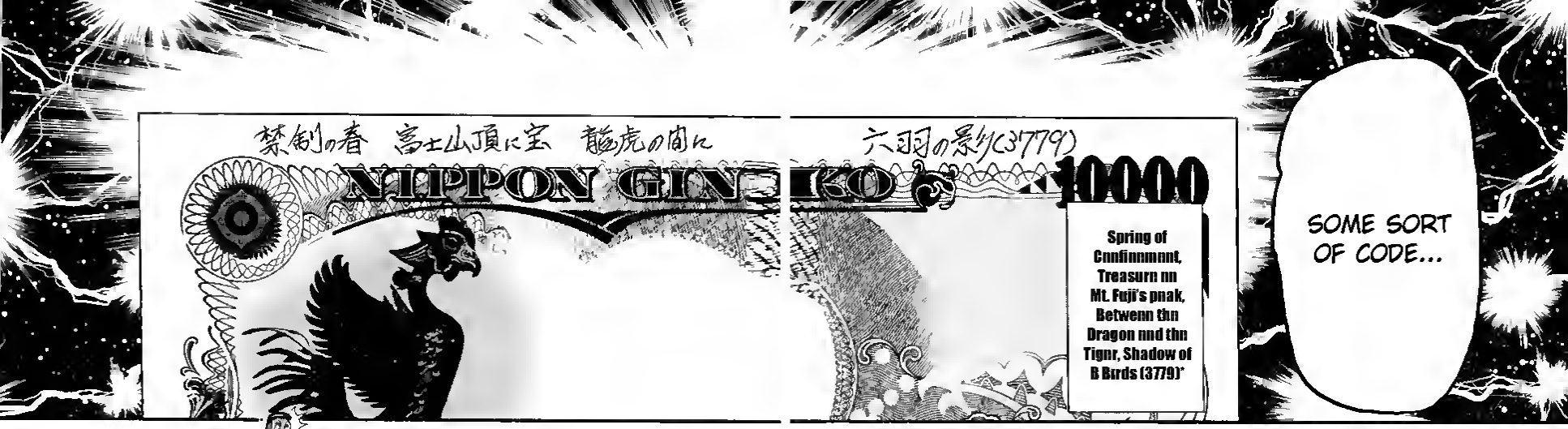
?
PLEASE TAKE A LOOK.
?


IT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE

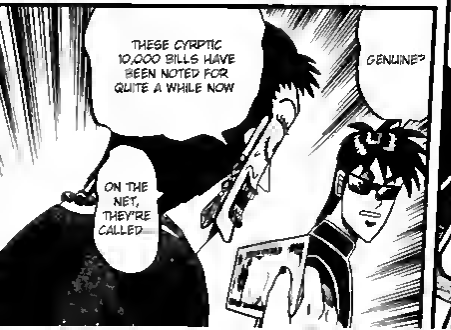


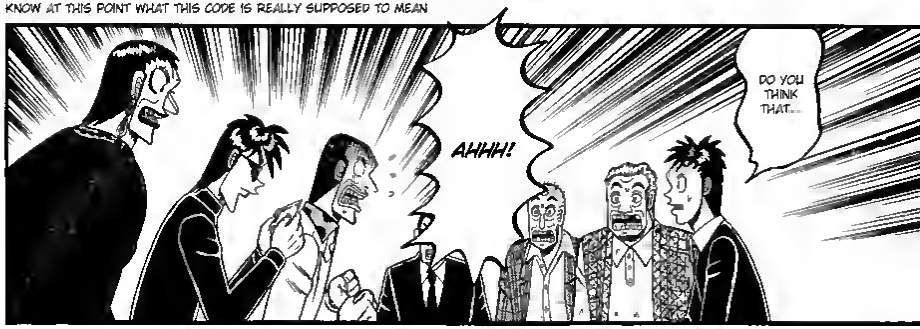
AS YOU CAN SEE,

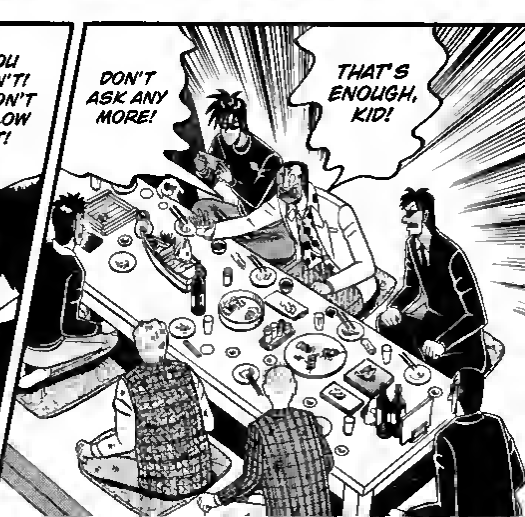

THERE'S WRITING AT THE TOP OF THE BILL...
.....


禁制の春 富士山頂に宝 龍虎の間に
NIPPON GINKO
六羽の影り(3779)
¥10000
Spring of Cnnfinnmnnt, Treasurn nn Mt. Fuji's pnak, Betwenn thn Dragon nnd thn Tignr, Shadow of B Birds (3779)*
SOME SORT OF CODE...

*KEEP IN MIND THE TRANSLATION OF THE CODE MAY NOT BE ENTIRELY ACCURATE DUE TO AMBIGUITIES OF JAPANESE. ONLY FUKUMOTO WOULD KNOW AT THIS POINT WHAT THIS CODE IS REALLY SUPPOSED TO MEAN

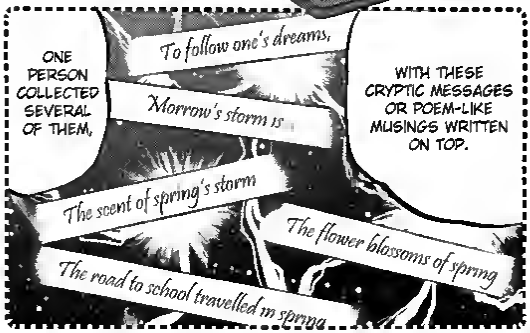


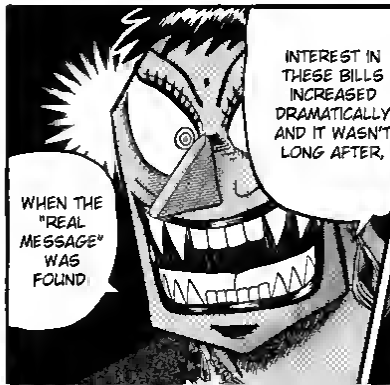


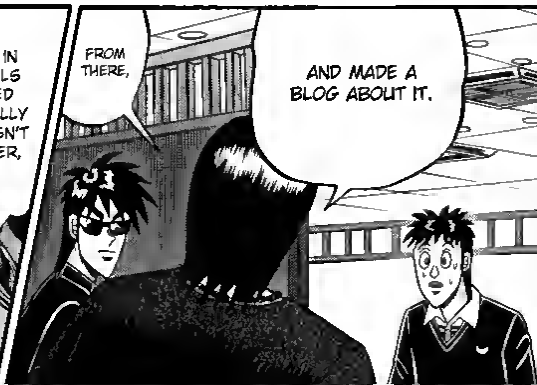


禁制の春 富士山頂に宝 龍虎の間に
NIPPON GINKO
六羽の影り(3779)
¥10000
Spring of Cnnfinnmnnt, Trnnsurn nt Mt. Fuji's pnak, Betwenn thn Dragon nnd thn Tignr, Shadow of B Birds (3779)*
SOME SORT OF CODE...
*KEEP IN MIND THE TRANSLATION OF THE CODE MAY NOT BE ENTIRELY ACCURATE DUE TO AMBIGUITIES OF JAPANESE. ONLY FUKUMOTO WOULD KNOW AT THIS POINT WHAT THIS CODE IS REALLY SUPPOSED TO MEAN
GOT THAT!?
AHH!
O-OK...
IT COMES WITH A FEE AS HIGH AS ZERO'S INTELLECT!
YES
IS THIS A GENUINE ONE!?
I'VE HEARD ABOUT THESE BILLS!
WAIT A SEC!
THESE CYRPTIC 10,000 YEN BILLS HAVE BEEN NOTED FOR QUITE A WHILE NOW
GENUINE?
ON THE NET THEY'RE CALLED...
AHHH!
DO YOU THINK THAT...
MY PRECIOUS ZERO ISN'T SOME PLAY-THING YOU CAN JUST USE FOR FREE!
YOU CAN'T! I WON'T ALLOW IT!
DON'T ASK ANY MORE!
THAT'S ENOUGH, KID!

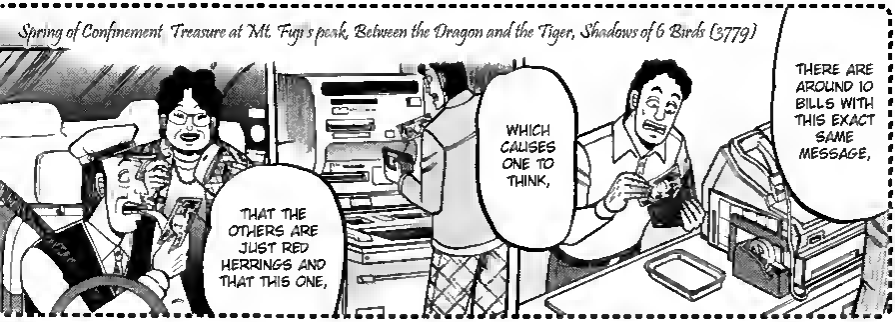
*FUKUZAWA YUKICHI IS THE MAN ON THE 10,000 YEN BILL


ONE PERSON COLLECTED SEVERAL OF THEM,
To follow one's dreams,
Morrow's storm is
The scent of spring's storm
The flower blossoms of spring
The road to school travelled in spring
WITH THESE CRYPTIC MESSAGES OR POEM-LIKE MUSINGS WRITTEN ON TOP.

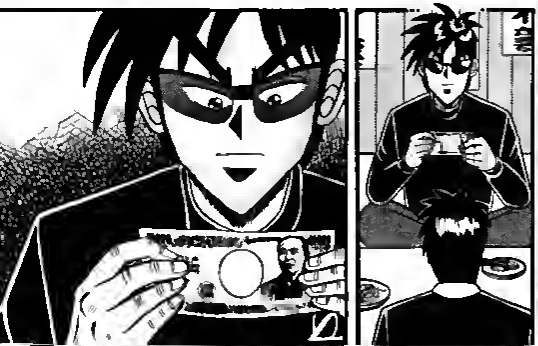




EXCEPT FOR ONE!
明日は
春の空 ひばりの鳴
春 じんちょうげの
春の香り スイセンの
AND THAT MONOLOGUE IS THIS ONE!
YOU SEE, IN ALL THE CRYPTIC 10,000 YEN NOTES FOUND, THE "MONOLOGUES" ARE ALL DIFFERENT,
IT'S MY FIRST TIME SEEING ONE
REAL MESSAGE


Spring of Confinement Treasure at Mt. Fuji's peak, Between the Dragon and the Tiger, Shadows of 6 Birds (3779)
THAT THE OTHERS ARE JUST RED HERRINGS AND THAT THIS ONE,
WHICH CAUSES ONE TO THINK,
THERE ARE AROUND 10 BILLS WITH THIS EXACT SAME MESSAGE,

SURE.
COULD I TAKE A LOOK THAT AGAIN?



IT COULD BE SOME TYPE OF CODE TO FIND A FORTUNE LEFT BY A RICH ECCENTRIC MAN...
IS THE REAL CODE TO FINDING THE SUPPOSED TREASURE!
JUNKO,

SHADOW OF 6 BIRDS (3779)

BETWEEN THE DRAGON AND THE TIGER,

TREASURE AT MT. FUJI'S PEAK,

SPRING OF CONFINEMENT,

桜散る前に 忠

Before the Cherry Blossems Fell [忠]

WHAT DO YOU THINK, ZERO?

SO...

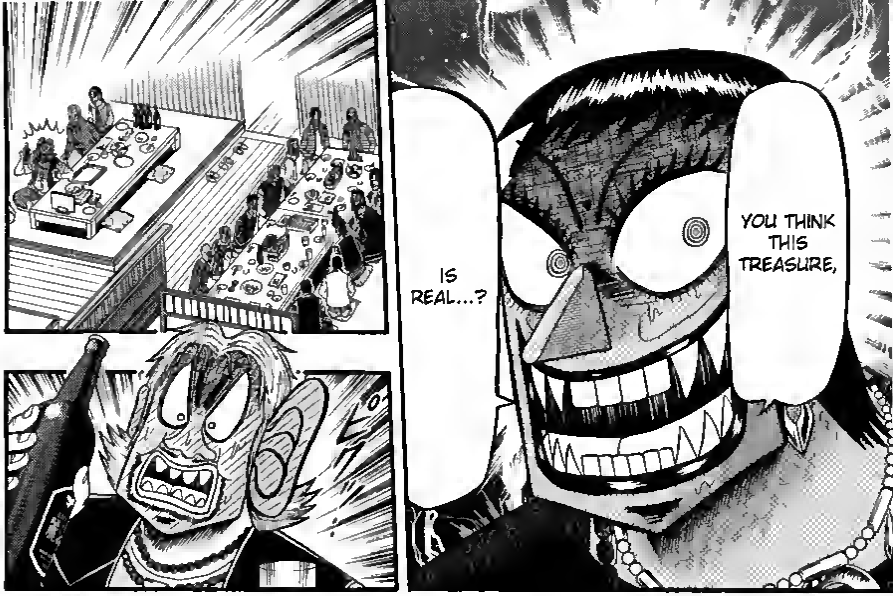
……

……

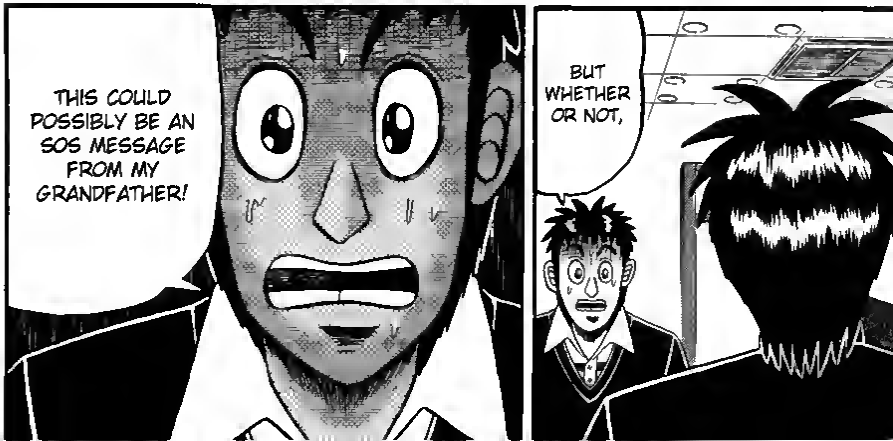
THERE'S SOMETHING AT THE BOTTOM...

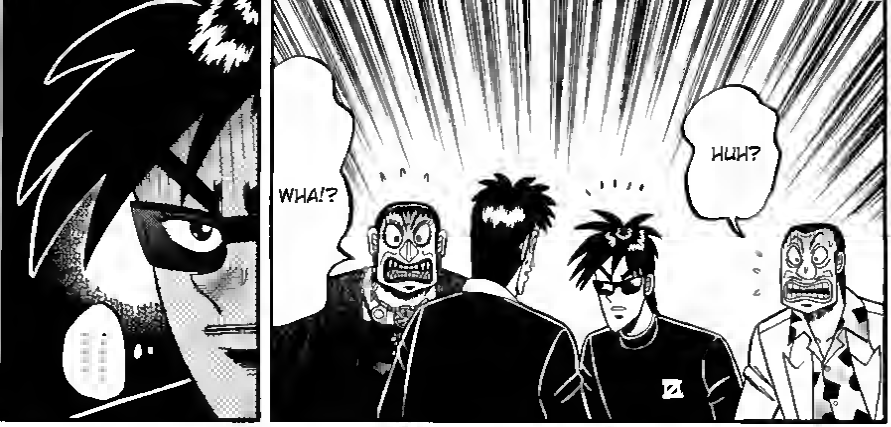
桜散る前に

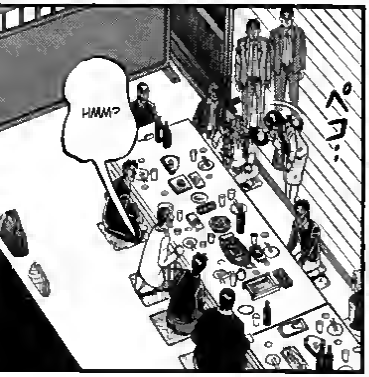
Spring of Confinement, Treasure at Mt. Fuji's Peak, Between the Dragon and the Tiger, Shadows of 6 Birds [3779]


YOU THINK THIS TREASURE,
IS REAL...?

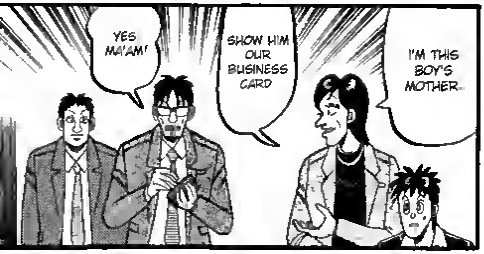
WHAT I ACTUALLY WANTED TO KNOW WAS NOT ABOUT THE TREASURE!
NO.
I'M AFRAID IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW FOR CERTAIN WITH ONLY THIS MUCH INFO.
HM...
.....


THIS COULD POSSIBLY BE AN SOS MESSAGE FROM MY GRANDFATHER!
BUT WHETHER OR NOT,


WHA!?
HUH?


HMM?
ペラ・・

EXCUSE ME.
I'M SO CONFUSED.
THE HELL'S AN SOS?


YES MA'AM!
SHOW HIM OUR BUSINESS CARD
I'M THIS BOY'S MOTHER.

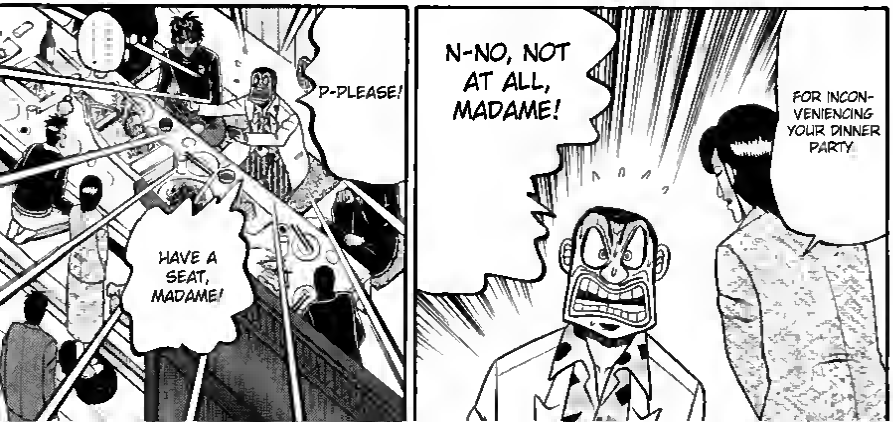
UHH, OK.
HERE, SIR.

WHO ARE YOU?
I'M SORRY, NACK! JUST CAN'T SEEM TO LET GO OF THIS IDEA.

HUH?
MANAGING DIRECTOR HOUJOU SAWAKO...?
HOUJOH CORPORATION
WHAT'S WITH THIS FORMAL INTRODUCTION AND EXCHANGING BUSINESS CARDS
AM I AT AN OFFICE OR SOMETHING?
UGH
あ
AGHHHHH!
あ
あっ…!!
宝
H-HOUOH!?
宝
HOUOH!?
て!
て!
宝
AS IN, THE HOUOH CORPORATION!?
て!

OF NANAHONGI HILLS AND HAPPONGI MIDTOWN!? THE SAME CORPORATION WHO'S AT THE VERY TOP OF THE FOOD CHAIN OF BUSINESSES...!?
THE SAME CORPORATION THAT PRETTY MUCH OWNS THE REAL ESTATE BUSINESS,

THIS COULD MEAN BIG BUCKS!
PLEASE EXCUSE US,
?
GOTTA BE SUPER CAREFUL WITH THIS BUSINESS CARD!
あたふた
HOLY CRAP!
あたふた


P-PLEASE!
HAVE A SEAT, MADAME!
N-NO, NOT AT ALL, MADAME!
FOR INCONVENIENCING YOUR DINNER PARTY.

FEEL FREE TO CONSULT WITH ZERO AS MUCH AS YOU WISH!
I INSIST!
WELL, IF YOU INSIST

3 YEARS AGO,
MY FATHER KIJUROU, THE FOUNDER OF HOUOH CORPORATION, WENT MISSING.

AND IT JUST SO HAPPENS
THAT THESE MYSTERIOUS BILLS START APPEARING AFTER HIS DISAPPEARANCE
AND SUSPICIOUSLY ENOUGH,
THESE MONOLOGUES QUITE RESEMBLE MY FATHER'S HANDWRITING. NOT ONLY THAT...

IS MY FATHER'S MOTTO,
THAT HE PREACHED TO BOTH NAOKI AND MYSELF WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL.
THAT'S SIGNED WITH THE SIGNATURE 「忠」,
THE ADDITIONAL MESSAGE WRITTEN AT THE BOTTOM OF THAT NOTE,

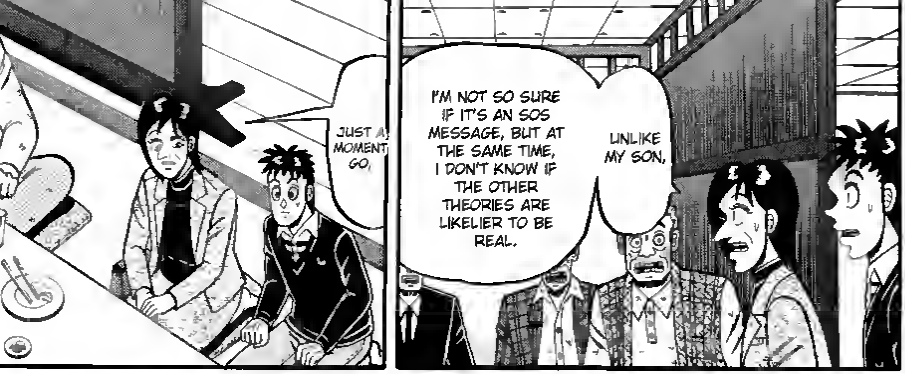
……
IT WAS A HABIT OF HIS TO ADD THIS CHARACTER TO ANY INSTRUCTION OR ORDER OF HIS.

AN UNWAVERING HEART.
LOYALTY, DEVOTION,
DAMN, YOU REALLY DO KNOW EVERYTHING.
OH...
A SINCERE AND CONSIDERATE HEART.
「忠」:
WHAT DOES THAT CHARACTER MEAN AGAIN?
HEY ZERO,

IN ANY CASE,
A CHARACTER THAT DESCRIBES MY ESSENCE PERFECTLY!
HM...
I忠I...

WILL BE HOLDING A MEETING,
MY FAMILY MEMBERS AND OUR COMPANY'S EXECUTIVES,
TOMORROW,

AN SOS MESSAGE AS MY SON BELIEVES,
WHETHER IT'S A SECRET MESSAGE TO WHERE HE HID HIS FORTUNES,
OR JUST SOME HARMLESS PRANK.
TO DISCUSS THE CASE OF THESE CRYPTIC BILLS,


JUST A MOMENT, GO,
I'M NOT SO SURE IF IT'S AN SOS MESSAGE, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I DON'T KNOW IF THE OTHER THEORIES ARE LIKELIER TO BE REAL.
UNLIKE MY SON,

AGAINST THE MAN SITTING AT THE OTHER TABLE,
MY SON WAS QUITE CAPTIVATED WITH YOUR PERFORMANCE,

THIS IS ONE MEETING WE CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO GO!
WELL ZERO,

WORRY NOT, MADAME! MY BOY ZERO SHALL BE ON THE CASE!
WE HAVE TO RELIEVE THIS LOVELY MADAME'S WORRIES!

AH, THAT'S HOW IT WAS..
SO HE CAME OVER HERE TO ASK IF YOU WOULD MIND ATTENDING THE MEETING TOMORROW AND GIVING YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE MATTER.

RIGHT ZERO!? RIGHT!?
TO HELP THOSE IN NEED AND UPHOLD "A SINCERE AND CONSIDERATE HEART!"
DID YA HEAR THAT!?
D...
THIS...
WERE CONNECTED TO THE HOUOH CORPORATION!
TO THINK THE CRYPTIC YUKICHI'S MONOLOGUES,
THIS IS INCREDIBLE!

HM?
BOSS
IF WE SELL THIS STORY TO SOME SHOW ON TV...
YA IDIOT!
RIGHT!
THIS MEANS THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING BEHIND THAT MESSAGE FOR SURE!
AND FIND THAT TREASURE!
I'M GONNA KEEP THIS INFO TO MYSELF.
WHA..?
I'M...
WHY DO WE HAFTA GIVE UP THIS SCOOP TO SOME TV SHOW!?
THE PIRATE KING!
I'M GONNA BE,
HEE HEE

きゃきゃきゃきゃきゃきゃきゃ
'COURSE! TREASURE HUNTIN' IS WHAT PIRATES DO BEST, AIN'T IT!?
P-PIRATE?
THE CHILD IN ME'S ALL FIRED UP FOR ADVENTURE!
AHAHAHA!

SPRING OF CONFINEMENT, TREASURE AT MT. FUJI'S PEAK, BETWEEN THE DRAGON AND TIGER, SHADOWS OF 6 BIRDS (3779)

BEFORE THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS FALL

忠

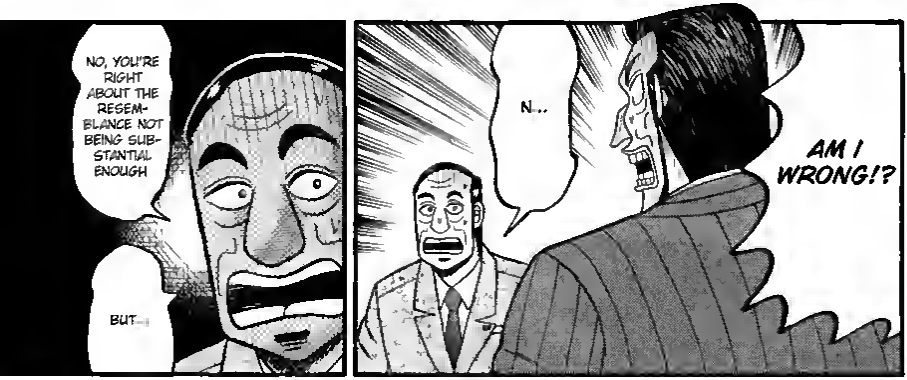
Chapter 41 Meeting
Houoh Corporation Headquarters
The next day.
HOUOH
NO!
NO!
NO!
Diractor Sawako
Naoki

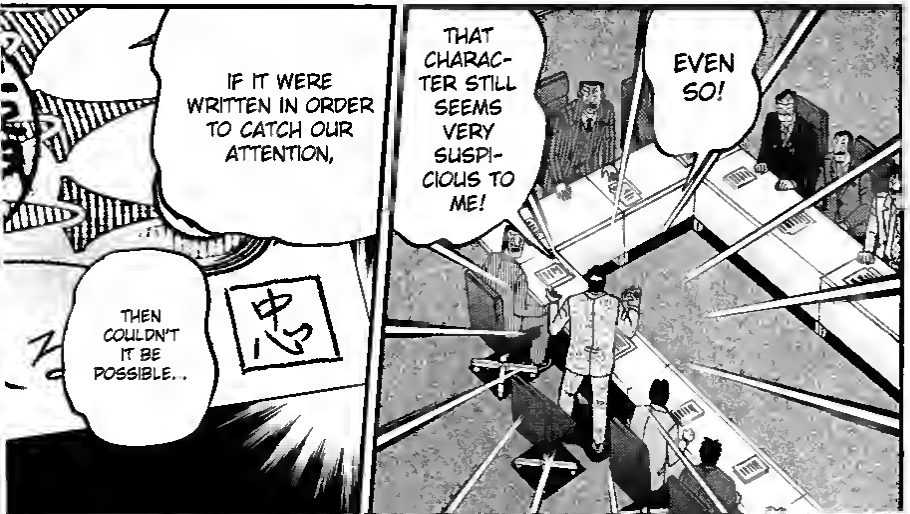
AS UNLIKELY AS IT MIGHT SEEM,
WHAT GOOD WOULD EVEN COME FROM TAKING THIS MATTER SERIOUSLY!?
THE HANDWRITING ON THESE BILLS CERTAINLY RESEMBLE THAT OF OUR MISSING FOUNDER HOUJOU KIJUROU.
BUT YOU CERTAINLY CAN'T DISCREDIT IT ENTIRELY
Director Okajima
THERE'S ALSO
AND ALTHOUGH THE MERE RESEMBLANCE IS NOT PROOF BY ITSELF ALONE,
THIS CHARACTER USED TO SIGN THE MESSAGE AT THE END
Of Houou Corp.'s founder Kijurou.
Former right-hand man,
OF COURSE, YOU OF ALL PEOPLE, PRESIDENT...

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
IT'S OBVIOUSLY NOTHING BUT SOME STUPID PRANK!
ALL THIS TALK OF TREASURE AND SECRET MESSAGES... IT'S ALL NONSENSE!
Houjou Family's Eldest Son Takamitsu (Age 54) Current President of Houoh Corporation

SHOULD KNOW THAT THIS 忠,
IS PART OF OUR FOUNDER'S CHERISHED MOTTO,
桜散る前に 忠
.....
ONE WHICH HE USED QUITE OFTEN IN HIS WRITINGS AND SPEECHES!
NO IT DOES NOT!
IT WAS NONE OTHER THAN HOUJOU KIJUROU HIMSELF WHO WROTE THESE MESSAGSES!
THIS CHARACTER MIGHT VERY WELL MEAN,
THUS,
THERE ARE LITERALLY HUNDREDS WHO KNEW ABOUT THAT HABIT OF HIS!
HE WENT ON AND ON ABOUT IT TO ALL HIS EMPLOYEES AND BUSINESS PARTNERS
MY FATHER'S OBSESSION WITH THAT CHARACTER WAS NO SECRET.

AND AMONG THEM,
ONE JACKASS MUST HAVE THOUGHT IT'D BE FUNNY TO USE IT TO PLAY A TRICK ON US!
MEANWHILE, THE HANDWRITING'S RESEMBLANCE IS JUST THAT! IT SORT OF "RESEMBLES" MY FATHER'S HANDWRITING,
BUT THERE'S NO PROOF FOR THAT AND IT'S NOT DEFINITIVE!
桜散る前に 忠

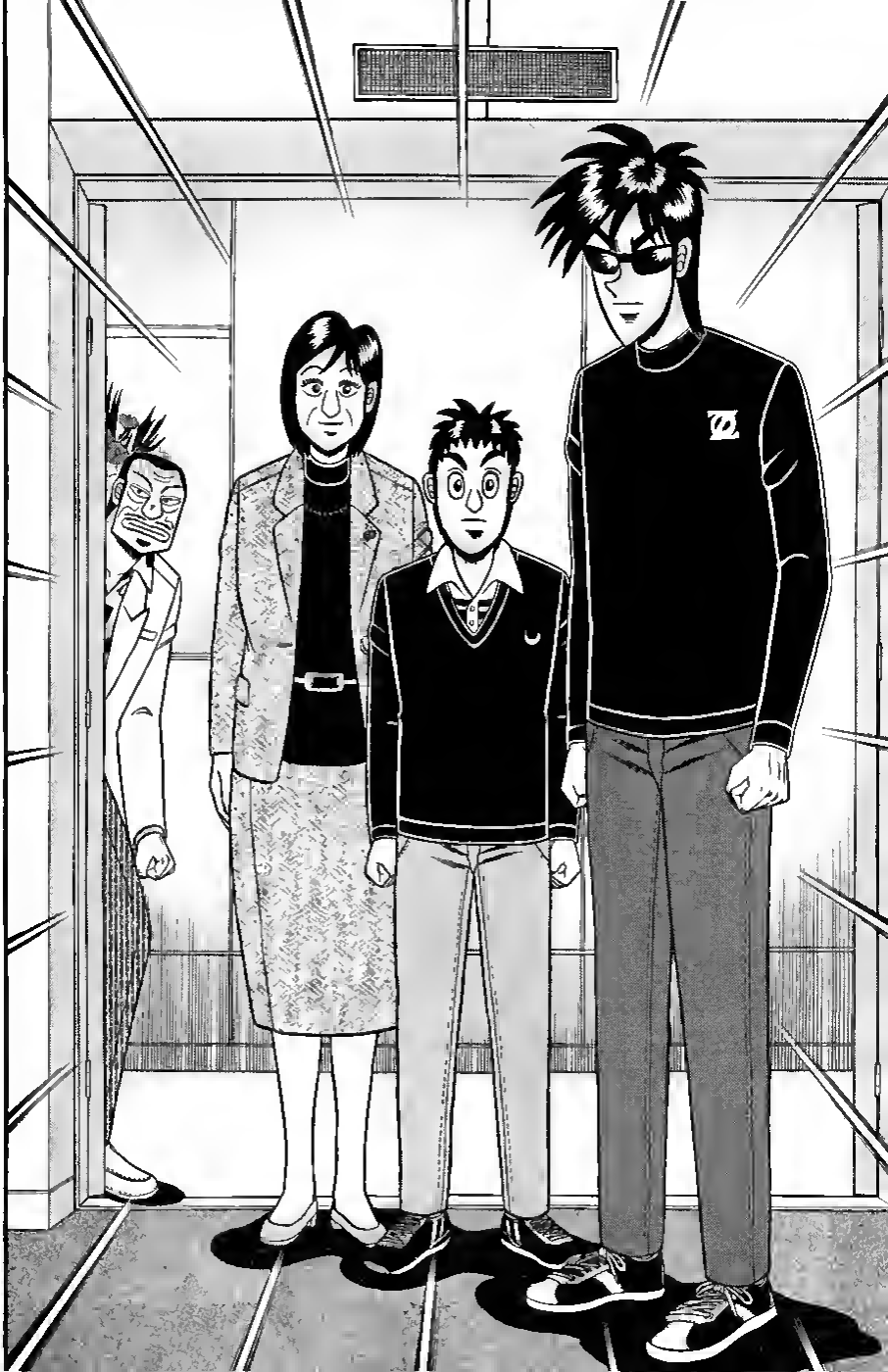

AM I WRONG!?
N...
NO, YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THE RESEMBLANCE NOT BEING SUBSTANTIAL ENOUGH
BUT...


EVEN SO!
THAT CHARACTER STILL SEEMS VERY SUSPICIOUS TO ME!
IF IT WERE WRITTEN IN ORDER TO CATCH OUR ATTENTION,
THEN COULDN'T IT BE POSSIBLE..
忠

THAT THE WRITING ON THESE BILLS,
IS ACTUALLY A CODED SOS MESSAGE!?

Spring of Confinement
Treasure at Mt. Fuji's Peak,
Between the Dragon and Tiger
Shadows of 6 Birds (3779)
Before the Cherry Blossoms Fall
忠
THEN THIS CODE...
WAS BEING HELD CAPTIVE SOME-WHERE?
WHAT IF OUR FOUNDER,
WHAT?

IS A WAY FOR HIM TO TELL US WHERE HE'S BEING HELD CAPTIVE!
WHA...
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
THAT'S JUST ABSURD!
EXACTLY!
HUH?
わ
び



WHO'S THAT BOY WITH YOU?
SAWAKO?
S...
ざわ・・・
ざわ・・・
ざわ・・・
HELLO BROTHER.

バタン
HIS NAME IS ZERO.
I BROUGHT HIM HERE TODAY,
FOR HIS SPECIAL EXPERTISE IN SOLVING PROBLEMS OF THESE SORTS,

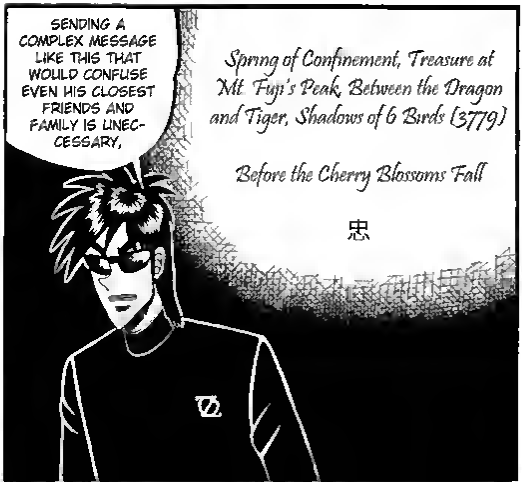
I KNEW IT!
OH, FOR THE LOVE OF...!
WHICH HE CAN USE TO ASSIST US!

START MAKING A BIG FUSS ABOUT SOME RUMOUR,
I JUST KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN!
AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOU'LL HAVE SO-CALLED "EXPERTS" KNOCKING ON YOUR DOORSTEPS,
THESE BILLS ARE THE SUBJECT OF NO MERE RUMOUR.
MR. HOUJOU TAKA-MITSU,
ONLY TO COME AND MAKE THINGS EVEN MORE TROUBLE-SOME!
NO,
DIDN'T YOU JUST AGREE WITH ME THAT THIS WHOLE THING IS ABSURD BY SAYING, "EXACTLY!"
WHAT?
I WAS ACTUALLY ONLY DIRECTING THAT COMMENT TO DIRECTOR OKAJIMA'S THEORY. .

HIS THEORY THAT THE CODE,
IS AN SOS MESSAGE FROM HOUJOU KIJUROU IS JUST PLAIN ABSURD.
WHAT?
NO IT ISN'T!
THE POSSIBILITY DEFINITELY EXISTS!
IF HE REALLY WERE HELD CAPTIVE SOMEWHERE,

HE WOULD SEND A MUCH SIMPLER MESSAGE!

AHH!
WHEN HE COULD JUST DIRECTLY WRITE WHERE HE'S BEING HELD CAPTIVE IF HE CAN EVEN SEND OUT A MESSAGE IN THE FIRST PLACE!


SENDING A COMPLEX MESSAGE LIKE THIS THAT WOULD CONFUSE EVEN HIS CLOSEST FRIENDS AND FAMILY IS UNNECESSARY,
Spring of Confinement, Treasure at Mt. Fuji's Peak, Between the Dragon and Tiger, Shadows of 6 Birds (3779)
Before the Cherry Blossoms Fall
忠

WHAT!?
IT PAINS ME TO SAY HE MUST HAVE PASSED AWAY BY NOW...

CONSID-ERING HE WENT MISSING 3 YEARS AGO,
T-TRUE...

WHA!?
I'M AFRAID SO...
THAT CAN'T BE!
NO!

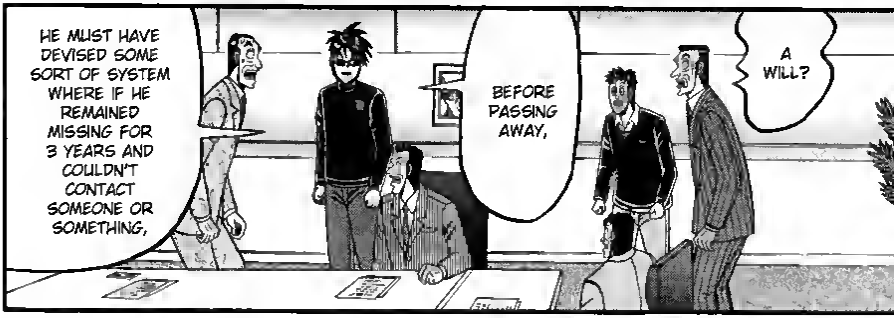
.....
IF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS TRUE, THEN WHAT IS THIS MESSAGE SUPPOSED TO BE...?

Z-ZERO!

IT'S AS THE RUMOURS CLAIM
Spring of Confinement: Treasure at Mt. Fuji's Peak, Between the Dragon and Tiger, Shadows of 6 Birds (3779)
Before the Cherry Blossoms Fall
忠

IT'S A CODED MESSAGE THAT TELLS WHERE ONE CAN FIND HIS TREASURES!
THERE REALLY IS A TREASURE, ISN'T THERE!?

WHAT!
THAT'S EVEN CRAZIER!
A CODED MESSAGE TO FIND TREASURE!? ARE YOU SERIOUS!?
TO BE MORE PRECISE, IT'S A WILL.


A WILL?
BEFORE PASSING AWAY,
HE MUST HAVE DEVISED SOME SORT OF SYSTEM WHERE IF HE REMAINED MISSING FOR 3 YEARS AND COULDN'T CONTACT SOMEONE OR SOMETHING,

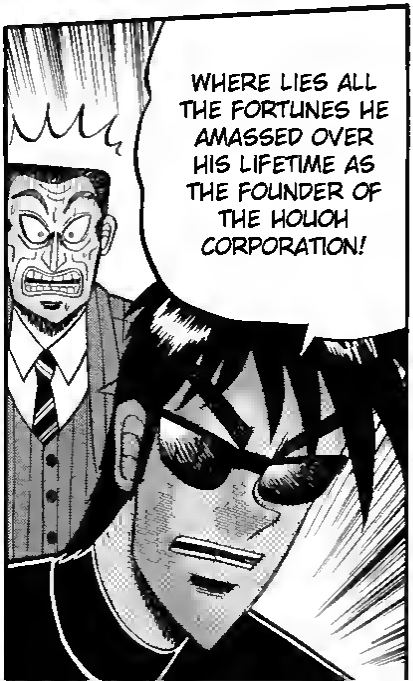
A CODED MESSAGE WOULD BE SENT,
BY THIS SOMEONE OR SOMETHING ..
AND THAT MESSAGE,
IS WHAT HAS BEEN DUBBED, "YUKICHI'S MONOLOGUE."
IN OTHER WORDS,

HE SPREAD AROUND A WILL ALL OVER JAPAN, WHICH IF DECODED PROPERLY,
WILL POINT TO THE HIDING PLACE,

THE KEY HERE IS THAT 忠
AHH!

THEN THAT'S JUST FINE... HE WOULDN'T MIND HANDING HIS FORTUNES OVER TO SOME STRANGER AS LONG AS HE COULD CRACK THE CODE
IF NONE OF HIS FAMILY MEMBERS COULD SENSE THE SIGNIFICANCE BEHIND IT,

PRESIDENT TAKAMITSU!
PERHAPS IT WAS THAT STRANGER'S FATE TO SUCCEED AFTER HIM!


WHERE LIES ALL THE FORTUNES HE AMASSED OVER HIS LIFETIME AS THE FOUNDER OF THE HOUOH CORPORATION!

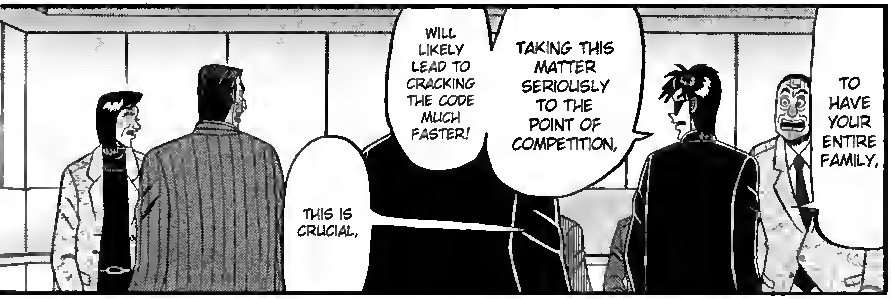
LOVE TRICKS, PRANKS,
DID HE HAVE SOME SORT OF CHILDISH STREAK,
WAS YOUR FATHER THE TYPE TO PULL SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
AH!
AND COME UP WITH OTHER ELABORATE PUZZLES...?
THEN...
HE WAS!

AHH!
WHAT I NOTICED FIRST WAS ..
NO, WAIT!
ONLY PARTIALLY SO FAR
DOES THAT YOU MEAN ALREADY DECIPHERED THIS CODED MESSAGE!?
WAIT! WAIT! WAIT!
SAWAKO.
IT'S DEFINITELY POSSIBLE ...
YES?
SINCE IT'S FATHER WE'RE TALKING ABOUT,
A WILL, HUH...

SHOULD WE GO ALONG WITH FATHER'S WISHES FOR THIS TREASURE HUNT?
AND RACE EACH OTHER TO IT?

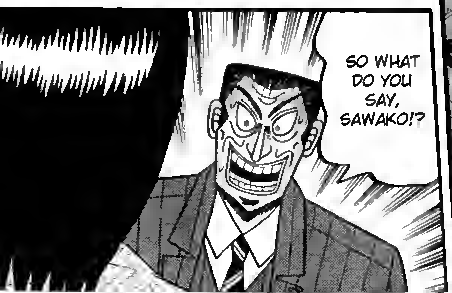
W-WHAT?
WHOEVER CAN CRACK THE CODE AND FIND THE TREASURE,
CAN HAVE IT ALL FOR HIMSELF OR HERSELF!
I...

PLEASE AGREE, MA'AM!
ZERO, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY. THIS IS ALL SO SUDDEN...


THIS IS CRUCIAL,
WILL LIKELY LEAD TO CRACKING THE CODE MUCH FASTER!
TAKING THIS MATTER SERIOUSLY TO THE POINT OF COMPETITION,
TO HAVE YOUR ENTIRE FAMILY,

EXACTLY!

YES!
IF YOU DON'T WANT A COMPLETE STRANGER JUST WALTZING IN AND SEIZING YOUR FATHER'S FORTUNES!


SO WHAT DO YOU SAY, SAWAKO!?

LET'S GET CRACKING THEN!
IT'S DECIDED THEN!
Spring of Confinement, Treasure at Mt. Fuji's Peak, Between the Dragon and Tiger Shadows of 6 Birds (3779)
Before the Cherry Blossoms Fall
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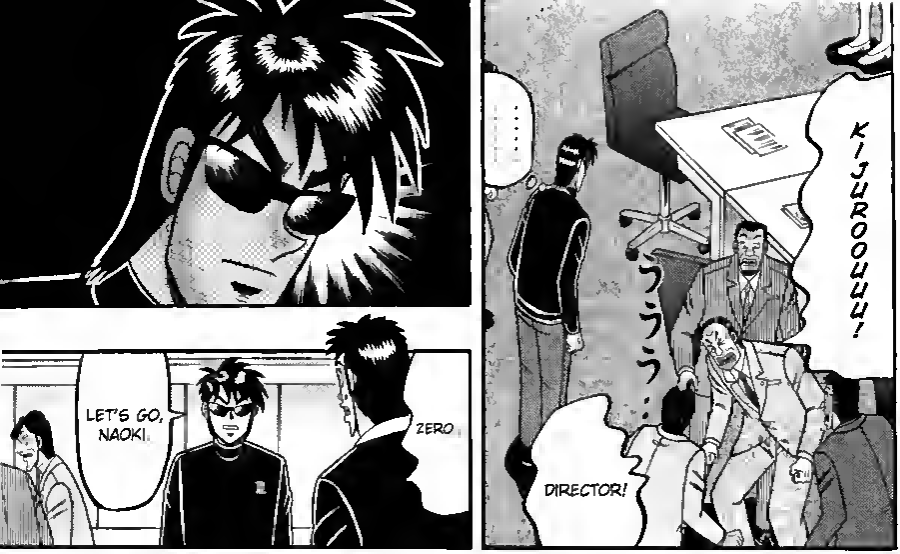
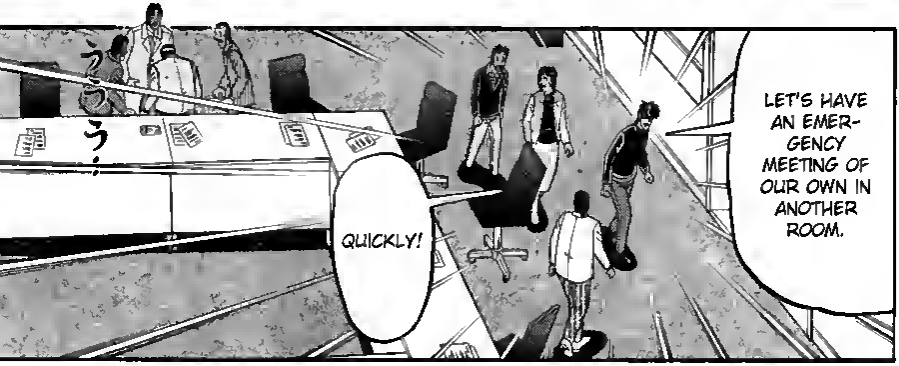
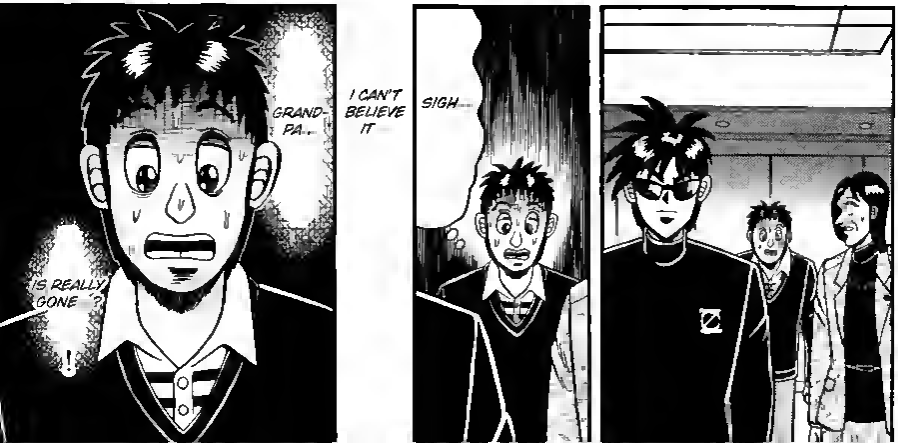
GREAT!
FINE
GENTLEMEN! COME TO THE OTHER CONFERENCE ROOM FOR AN EMERGENCY MEETING!
RIGHT AWAY!
YES, SIR!
SO YOU'VE ALREADY GONE TO THE NETHER WORLD, HAVE YOU NOW...
KIJU-ROU!
A WILL...


KIJUROOUUU!
.....
ううう…
DIRECTOR!
LET'S GO, NAOKI.
ZERO

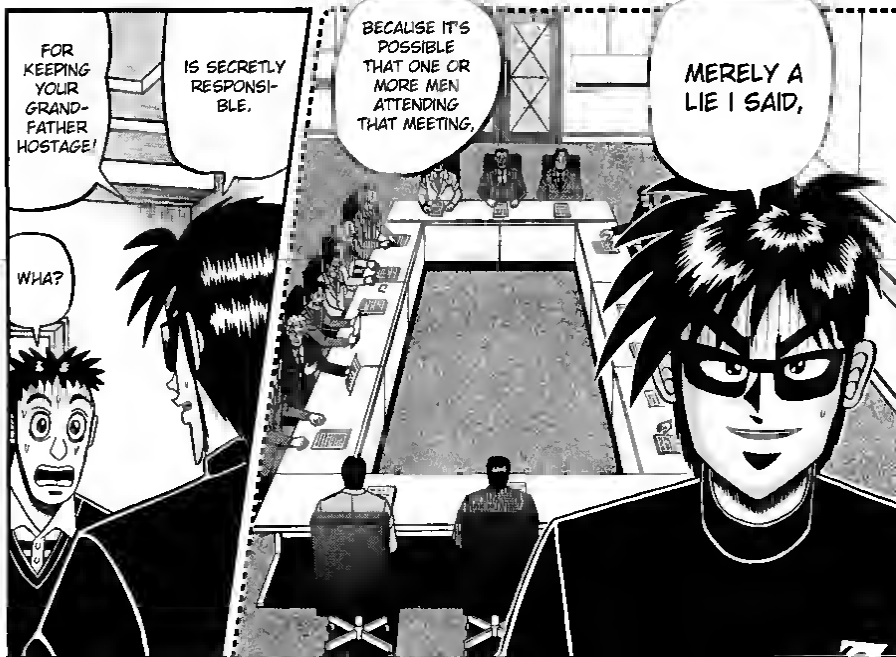

う…
う…
QUICKLY!
LET'S HAVE AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF OUR OWN IN ANOTHER ROOM.


GRANDPA..
IS REALLY GONE..?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT
SIGH...

HOTEL GRAND EX
CHEER UP.
YES?
NAOKI
YOUR GRAND-FATHER KIJUROU
IS STILL ALIVE!

CHAPTER 42 SYNOPSIS

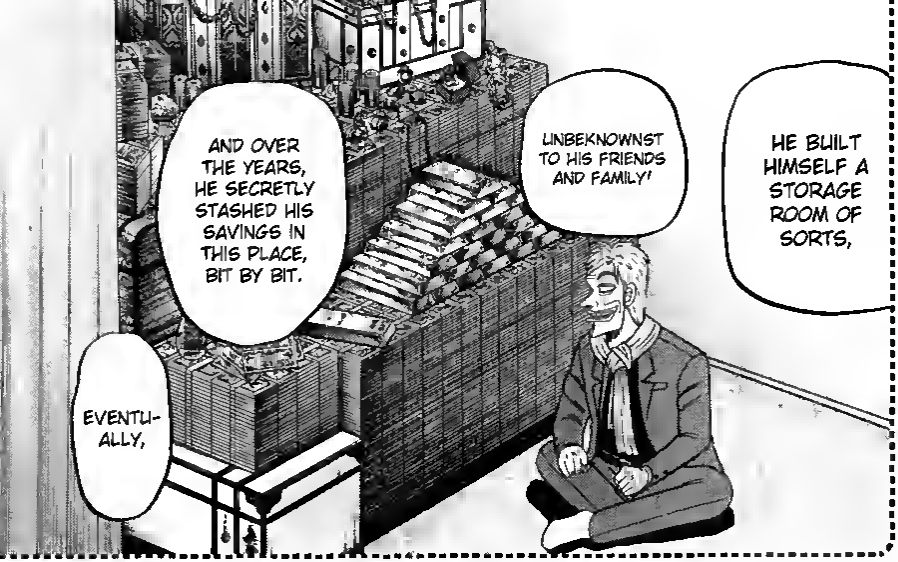
WHAAAT?
HE'S...
HE'S STILL ALIVE!?
B-BUT,
YOU JUST SAID...
THAT HE PASSED AWAY...!
THAT WAS,

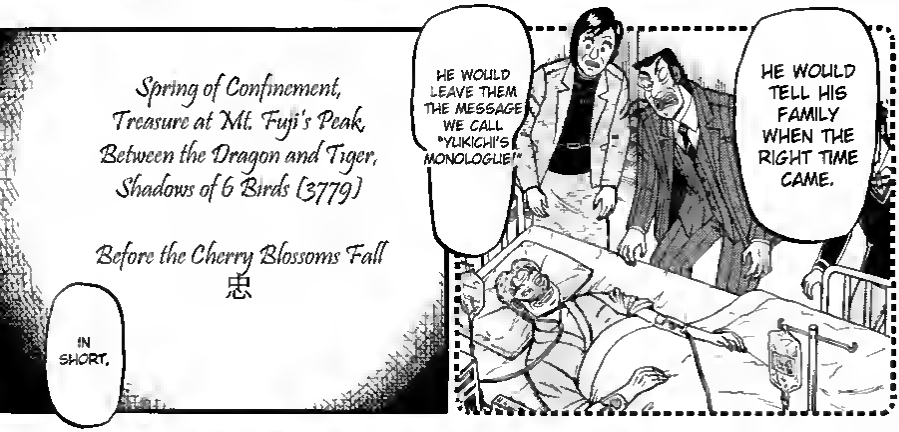

MERELY A LIE I SAID,
BECAUSE IT'S POSSIBLE THAT ONE OR MORE MEN ATTENDING THAT MEETING,
IS SECRETLY RESPONSI-BLE.
FOR KEEPING YOUR GRAND-FATHER HOSTAGE!
WHA?

WITH THAT RISK IN MIND,
I COULDN'T JUST COME OUT AND STATE THE TRUTH.
SINCE YOUR GRANDFATHER IS BEING HELD CAPTIVE AGAINST HIS WILL SOMEWHERE,
IF THE PERPETRATOR WERE TO FEEL THREATENED IN ANY WAY THAT HIS PLOT WAS ABOUT TO BE EXPOSED ..
THEN HE COULD TAKE,
DRASTIC, LIFE-THREATENING ACTIONS!
AHH!
BUT,
NOW THAT WE'RE ALONE,
I'LL STOP LYING,
AND TELL YOU WHAT I REALLY THINK.
THE THEORY,
THAT I SPENT ALL NIGHT YESTERDAY COMING UP WITH!

I THINK THAT THIS WHOLE INCIDENT...
WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO BE AS THE RUMOURS ONLINE CLAIM!

HOUOH KIJUROU,
HAVING ESTABLISHED A MASSIVE CORPORATION IN THE SPAN OF A SINGLE GENERATION,
AMASSED AN ENORMOUS FORTUNE!
AND HE DECIDED TO PILE UP HIS PRIVATE SAVINGS IN THE FORM OF CASH, STOCKS, GOLD AND JEWELLERY,
AND HIDE IT SOMEWHERE!


HE BUILT HIMSELF A STORAGE ROOM OF SORTS,
UNBEKNOWNST TO HIS FRIENDS AND FAMILY!
AND OVER THE YEARS, HE SECRETLY STASHED HIS SAVINGS IN THIS PLACE, BIT BY BIT.
EVENTU-ALLY,


Spring of Confinement, Treasure at Mt. Fuji's Peak, Between the Dragon and Tiger, Shadows of 6 Birds (3779)
Before the Cherry Blossoms Fall
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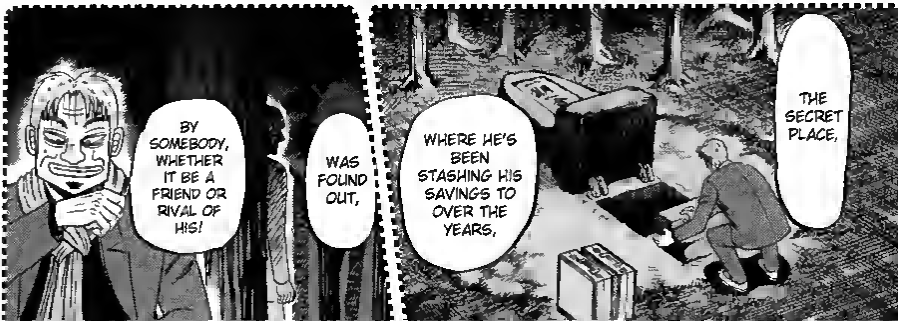
IN SHORT,
HE WOULD LEAVE THEM THE MESSAGE WE CALL "YUKICHI'S MONOLOGUE!"
HE WOULD TELL HIS FAMILY WHEN THE RIGHT TIME CAME.

HIS GRANDEST PERFORMANCE, YET!
IT WOULD BE,
AND LEAVE BEHIND A WILL!
IT WAS A WAY FOR THE PLAYFUL AND ECCENTRIC KIJUROU TO TEST HIS FAMILY'S INTELLIGENCE,

A SPECTA-CULAR TRESURE HUNT,
THAT HIS FAMILY CAN BOND OVER AND REMEMBER HIM FONDLY FOR!

BUT! THERE WAS A HITCH IN HIS PLAN!

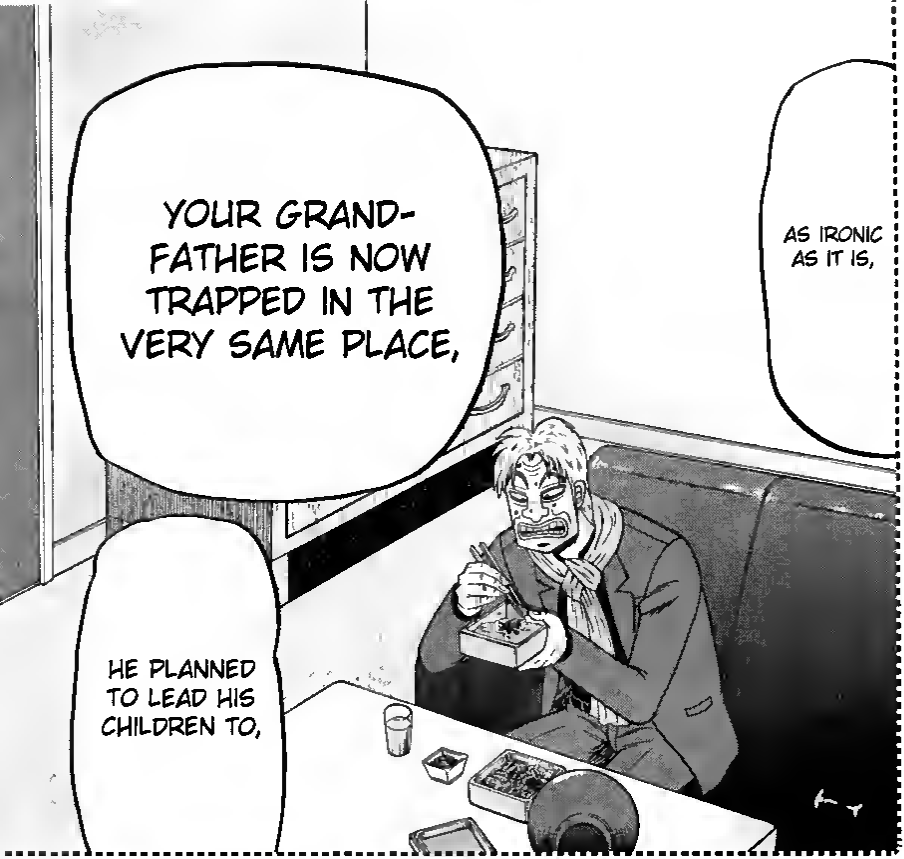

THE SECRET PLACE,
WHERE HE'S BEEN STASHING HIS SAVINGS TO OVER THE YEARS,
WAS FOUND OUT,
BY SOMEBODY, WHETHER IT BE A FRIEND OR RIVAL OF HIS!

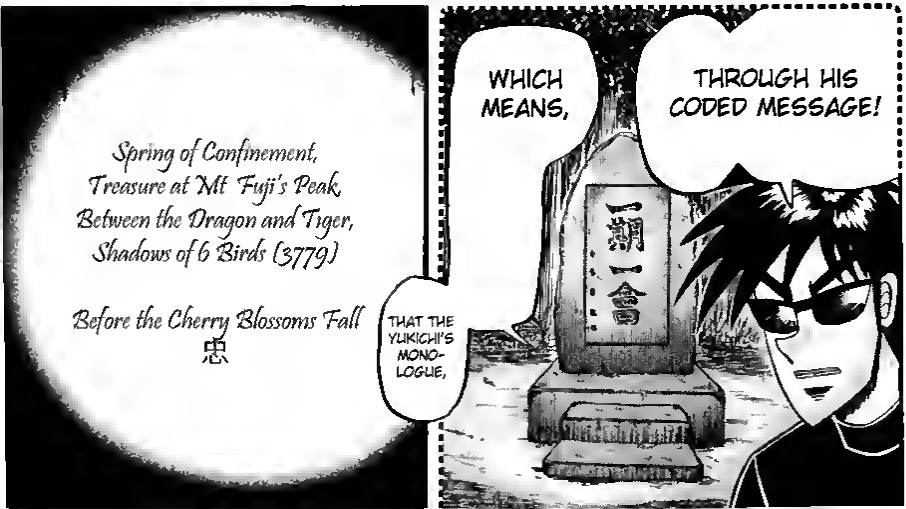
WHEN HE WENT INSIDE,
SO ONE DAY,
NOT ONLY THAT,
HE REALIZED HIS FORTUNES HAD DISAPPEARED!
TO STASH SOME MONEY AS USUAL,
AND THE MORE PRESSING ISSUE AT HAND...
HE HAD NO IDEA WHO WAS BEHIND IT,
THE MECHANISM SUCH AS A REMOTE WITH WHICH HE USED TO OPEN THE SECRET DOOR TO THIS PLACE WAS GONE,
WAS DESTR-OYED!
AND THE EMERGENCY OPEN SWITCH,

WAS THAT HE WAS NOW TRAPPED!
HE WASN'T KILLED THEN AND THERE ...
AND THE REASON WHY,

WAS THAT IF HE WERE LEFT ALIVE,
HE COULD BE USED AS A BARGAIN-ING CHIP,
TO EXTORT EVEN MORE MONEY FROM YOUR FAMILY!
AS LONG AS YOUR GRANDFA-THER WAS CLUELESS AS TO WHO HAD SEALED HIM INSIDE,
THE CRIMINAL COULD USE YOUR GRAND-FATHER'S LIFE,
AS A FINAL TRUMP CARD IN CASE HE NEEDED MORE MONEY!
AHH...
THUS,
WE CAN ASSUME THAT THIS PLACE,
HAS THE VERY BASICS TO KEEP YOUR GRANDFATHER ALIVE...!

SHOWER,
A TOILET,
BASIC FURNITURE,
RUNNING WATER, ELECTRICITY,
AND EVEN A BED!
THREE TIMES A DAY.
PROBABLY MADE SOME EMERGENCY OPENING,
THROUGH WHICH MEALS COULD BE DELIVERED THROUGH.
THE PERPE-TRATOR,
AS FOR FOOD,


YOUR GRAND-FATHER IS NOW TRAPPED IN THE VERY SAME PLACE,
AS IRONIC AS IT IS,
HE PLANNED TO LEAD HIS CHILDREN TO,


Spring of Confinement,
Treasure at Mt. Fuji's Peak,
Between the Dragon and Tiger,
Shadows of 6 Birds (3779)
Before the Cherry Blossoms Fall
忠
THAT THE YUKICHI'S MONO-LOGUE,
WHICH MEANS,
THROUGH HIS CODED MESSAGE!

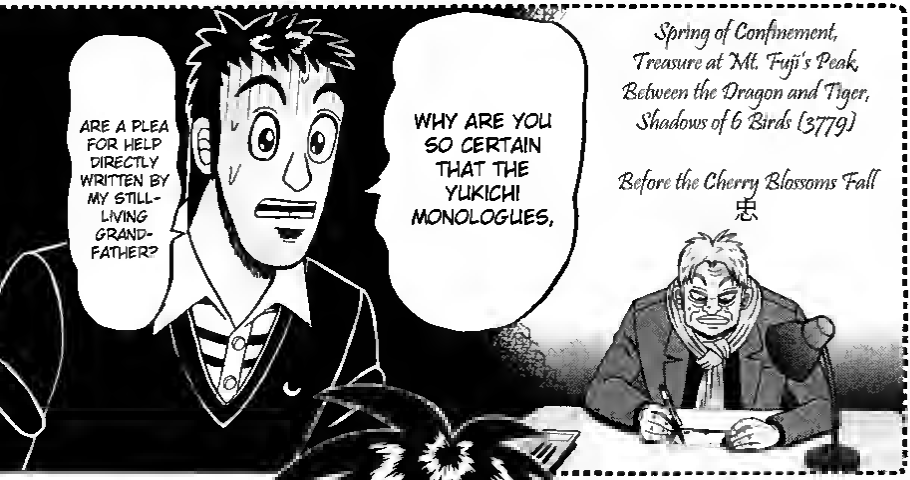
IS TECHNICALLY BOTH AN SOS MESSAGE THAT TELLS WHERE HE'S BEING HELD CAPTIVE,
AS WELL AS A WILL THAT TELLS WHERE HIS FORTUNES ARE HIDDEN!
Spring of Confinement, Treasure at Mt. Fuji's Peak, Between the Dragon and Tiger, Shadows of 6 Birds (3779)
Before the Cherry Blossoms Fall
忠

...

AHH...
THAT SUMS UP MY THEORY.

BUT...
I SEE, THAT DOES SEEM TO MAKE SENSE...

WITH WHICH MY GRANDFATHER COULD USE TO SPREAD HIS MESSAGE AROUND AFTER HE DIED.
EARLIER, YOU MENTIONED SOME SORT OF AUTOMATIC SYSTEM,
WHY DID YOU DISCOUNT THAT POSSIBILITY?


ARE A PLEA FOR HELP DIRECTLY WRITTEN BY MY STILL-LIVING GRANDFATHER?
WHY ARE YOU SO CERTAIN THAT THE YUKICHI MONOLOGUES,
Spring of Confinement, Treasure at Mt. Fuji's Peak, Between the Dragon and Tiger, Shadows of 6 Birds (3779)
Before the Cherry Blossoms Fall
忠

AS YOU'RE OF COURSE WELL AWARE OF...

IS THE REAL MESSAGE THAT REVEALS HIS LOCATION!
AND AMONG THEM, ONLY THE ONES SIGNED WITH THE CHARACTER 忠
桜散る前に 忠
THERE ARE MANY, MANY DIFFERENT MESSAGES COLLECTIVELY KNOWN AS YUKICHI'S MONOLOGUES.
HOWEVER,
WITH NO REAL HIDDEN MEANINGS BEHIND THEM
ARE MERELY RED HERRINGS,
THE REST OF THE MONO-LOGUES,
THAT THESE WERE CONNECTED TO YOUR GRAND-FATHER SOMEHOW!
AND HAD AN UNSHAKEABLE FEELING,
READ THESE RAMBLINGS,
YOU YOURSELF,
春恋し
うたた寝の春 日の光追い
春近レ 小川の流 結ぶの春 名次川に九
慣性の春 富士五湖に仏 蝶と水牛
NIPPON GI

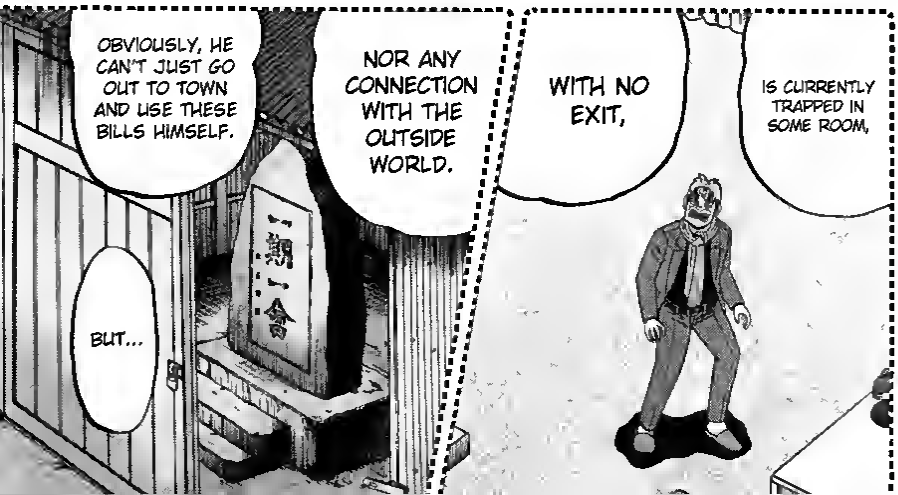
HIS DESIRE TO ESCAPE!
YOU SENSED HIS DESPERATION!
SO WHETHER OR NOT THE ACTUAL MEANING BEHIND MOST OF THEM WERE NONSENSICAL,
HMM...
AHH!
YOUR BOND WITH HIM ALLOWED YOU TO READ BETWEEN THE LINES AND SENSE THE INTENT BEHIND THESE MESSAGES!
NAOKI.

BUT HOW DO YOU SUPPOSE,
HAVE BEEN POPPING UP HERE AND THERE FOR QUITE SOME TIME NOW, HAVEN'T THEY?
THESE MONOLOGUES, NOT JUST THE REAL SOS MESSAGE, BUT ALL THE BILLS WITH ODD WRITING ON TOP,
LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING
10000
10000 YEN

YOUR GRANDFATHER'S BEEN SPREADING THEM AROUND IN THE FIRST PLACE?

YOUR GRAND-FATHER,

HAHA
YOU'RE RIGHT! HOW DID HE DO THAT!?
AAGHHHH!


OBVIOUSLY, HE CAN'T JUST GO OUT TO TOWN AND USE THESE BILLS HIMSELF.
NOR ANY CONNECTION WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
WITH NO EXIT,
IS CURRENTLY TRAPPED IN SOME ROOM,
BUT...

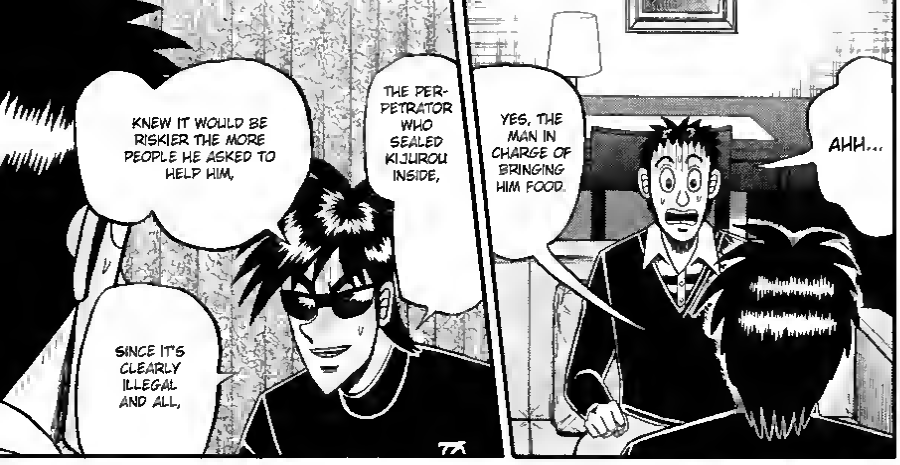
THERE IS ONE HOLE,
IN HIS CURRENT PRISON...!
AHH!

IT WOULD REQUIRE A LONG TIME...
BUT TO USE IT,
THERE IS...!?
Letter
バタ..
バタ..
バタ..

BECAUSE HE'D BE USING A LIVE HUMAN AS A CARRIER PIGEON OF SORTS!
WHAT?
A CARRIER PIGEON!?
!?

CHAPTER 43 PATIENCE (だいわにんたい)

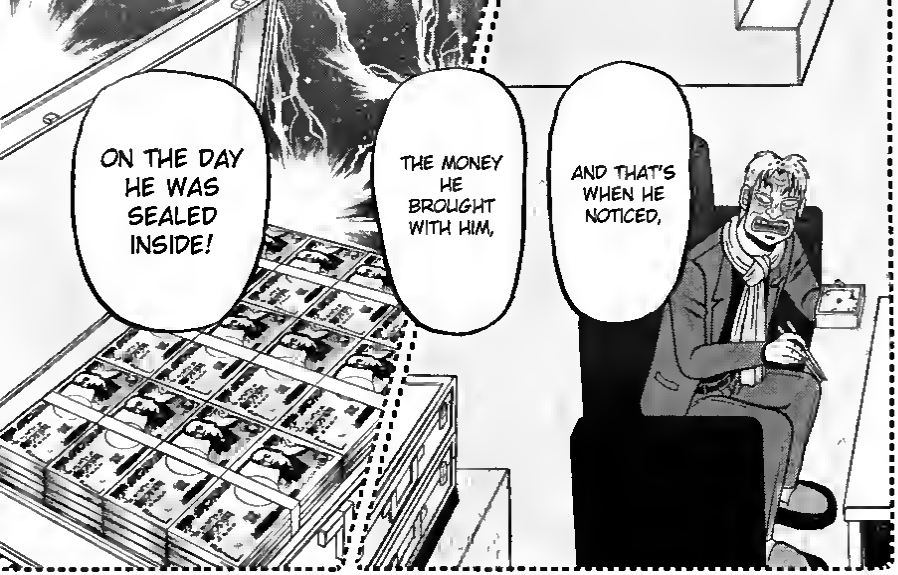
HE SHOULD NORMALLY HAVE NO POSSIBLE WAY TO COMMUNICATE,
WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
ガタッ
BUT,
FORTUNATELY FOR HIM,
THERE WAS ONE CONVENIENT HOLE,
THROUGH WHICH,
HIS MEALS WOULD BE DELIVERED,
3 TIMES A DAY!

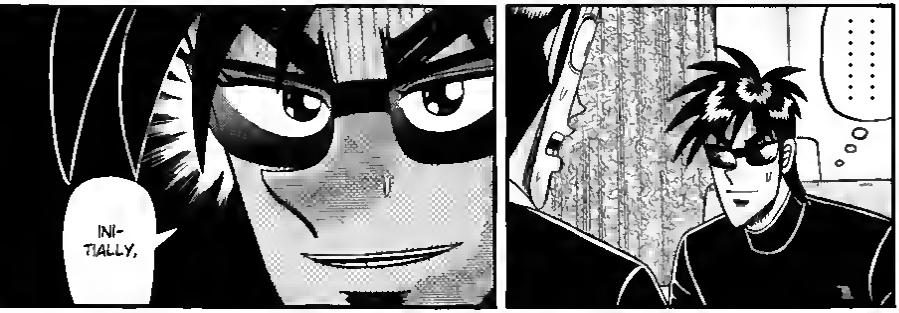

AHH...
YES, THE MAN IN CHARGE OF BRINGING HIM FOOD.
THE PERPETRATOR WHO SEALED KIJUROU INSIDE,
KNEW IT WOULD BE RISKIER THE MORE PEOPLE HE ASKED TO HELP HIM,
SINCE IT'S CLEARLY ILLEGAL AND ALL,

SO AT MOST, HE ASKED ONE TRUSTWORTHY PERSON TO DELIVER THE MEALS!
JUST ONE LOYAL PERSON WHOM HE COULD TRUST,
TO KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT ABOUT THE WHOLE AFFAIR!

THAT'S THE SORT OF MAN HE LEFT IN CHARGE!
NATURALLY, HE WOULD'VE WARNED HIM A MILLION TIMES,
TO NOT LET HIS GUARD DOWN,
OR TALK TO THE CAPTIVE.
BUT EVEN SO...

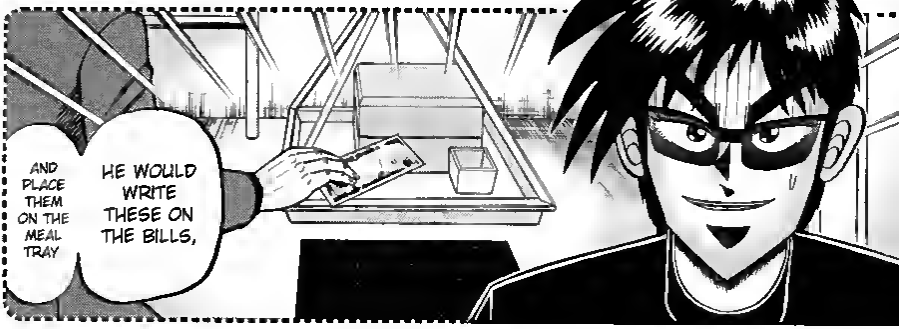
YOUR GRAND-FATHER,
MAY HAVE TRIED,
TO TALK TO HIM INITIALLY.
BUT,
AND BEFORE LONG,
THE MAN MOST LIKELY IGNORED HIM,
YOUR GRANDFA-THER GAVE UP ON HIM.

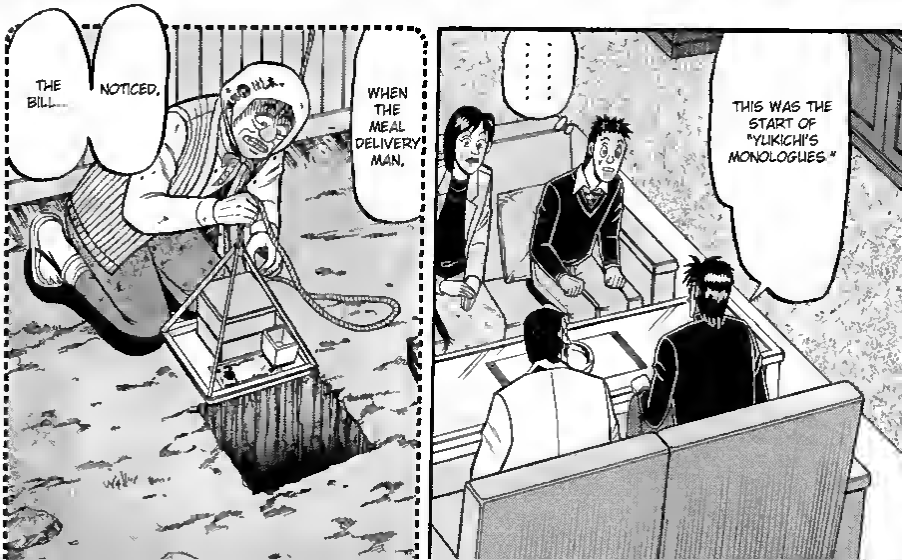

AND THAT'S WHEN HE NOTICED,
THE MONEY HE BROUGHT WITH HIM,
ON THE DAY HE WAS SEALED INSIDE!


INI-TIALLY,

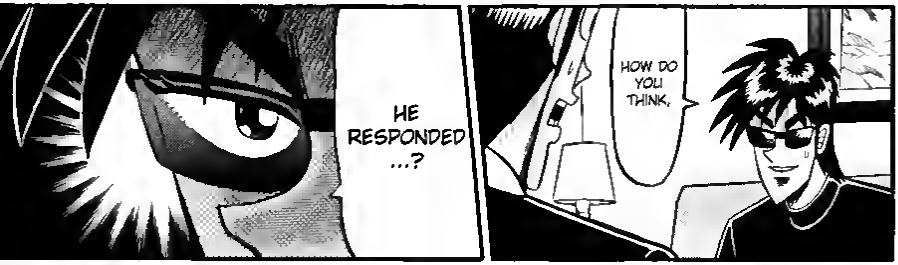
HE MUST HAVE WROTE,
MESSAGES LIKE THESE.
Thanks for the meals as always.
Today's fish was delicious.
Spring is in the air

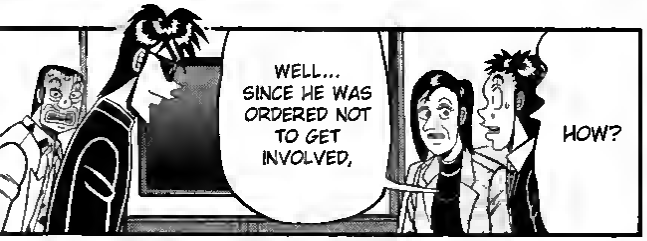
A REAL MONO-LOGUE!
OR HIS FEELINGS THAT DAY.
TALKING ABOUT THE FOOD,
A SHORT SENTENCE,
The white radish was not bad
I liked the Miso Soup


AND PLACE THEM ON THE MEAL TRAY
HE WOULD WRITE THESE ON THE BILLS,


THE BILL... NOTICED.
WHEN THE MEAL DELIVERY MAN,
THIS WAS THE START OF "YUKICHI'S MONOLOGUES."

The eggplant tempura was quite delicious.
NIPPON GINK
WRITTEN ON TOP OF THE BILL...
AND SAW THAT THERE WAS A MESSAGE,


HE RESPONDED ...?
HOW DO YOU THINK,

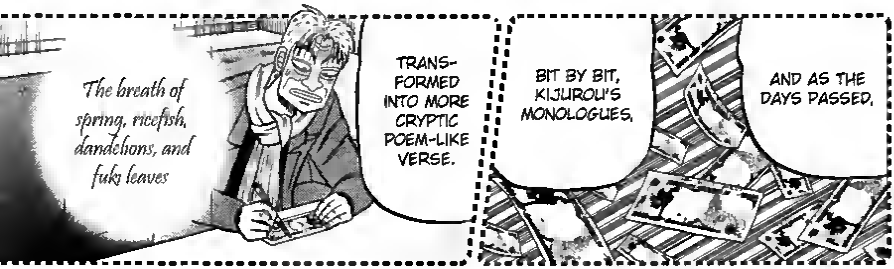

WELL... SINCE HE WAS ORDERED NOT TO GET INVOLVED,
HOW?

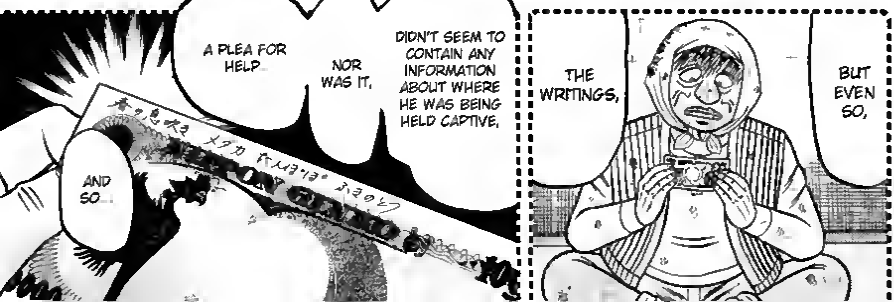
RIGHT.
I GUESS HE JUST IGNORED THE MESSAGE?

LET'S ASSUME,
THAT HE IGNORED THE MESSAGE
BUT WHAT ABOUT,
THE BILL ITSELF?
DO YOU THINK THAT JUST BECAUSE HE'S BEEN TOLD NOT TO GET INVOLVED,
HE WOULD THROW OUT THE 10,000 YEN NOTE,
LIKE SOME WORTHLESS PIECE OF PAPER?
HUH?
N-NO, OF COURSE NOT!
RIGHT!
THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD THROW IT OUT!
MONEY'S A DRUG NO MAN CAN RESIST!

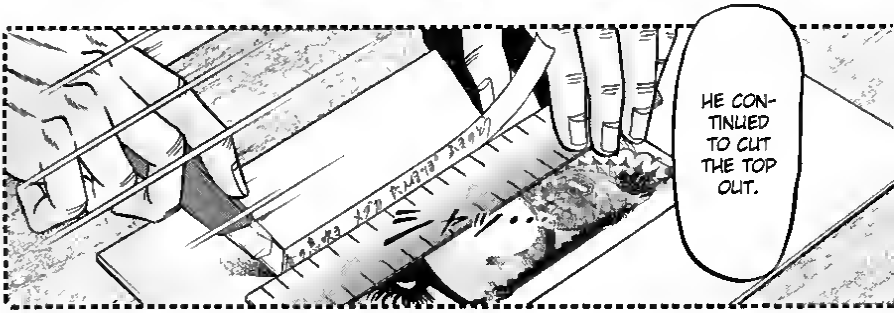
CUTTING OUT JUST THE TOP WHERE THE MESSAGE WAS WRITTEN!
HE MIGHT HAVE TRIED,
SINCE HE COULDN'T JUST THROW THE BILLS AWAY,

HE MUST HAVE BEEN QUITE HAPPY ABOUT IT
HE COULD FREELY USE THEM WITHOUT ANY RISK.
ONCE THAT WAS DONE,


The breath of spring, icefish, dandelions, and fuki leaves
TRANS-FORMED INTO MORE CRYPTIC POEM-LIKE VERSE.
BIT BY BIT, KIJUROU'S MONOLOGUES,
AND AS THE DAYS PASSED,


A PLEA FOR HELP.
NOR WAS IT,
DIDN'T SEEM TO CONTAIN ANY INFORMATION ABOUT WHERE HE WAS BEING HELD CAPTIVE,
AND SO...
THE WRITINGS,
BUT EVEN SO,

IT WAS SOMETHING THAT WOULDN'T REALLY CAUSE ANY TROUBLE,
EVEN IF HE DIDN'T BOTHER,
TO CUT IT OUT.
STILL...
JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE,


HE CONTINUED TO CUT THE TOP OUT.

AFTER ALL,
HE WAS WARNED BY HIS BOSS!
BUT AS DAYS,
TURNED TO WEEKS,
AND WEEKS,
TURNED TO MONTHS

HIS GUARD GRADUALLY DROPPED...!
AND MONTHS TURNED TO NEARLY A WHOLE YEAR,
MIGHT HAVE TRIED,
YOUR GRAND-FATHER,
AROUND THAT TIME,
ALONG WITH HIS USUAL MEAL!
HE RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM HIS CARETAKER,
BUT BEFORE LONG,
SAY, MAYBE 5 OR 10 DAYS...
NOT SENDING ANY MORE "MONO-LOGUES" FOR A BRIEF PERIOD.

What happened to your usual poems?
YOUR GRAND-FATHER WAS PROBABLY OVERJOYED TO SEE THIS!
金の力！
THE POWER OF MONEY.
HAD FINALLY TAMED HIS CARE-TAKER!

待まこ
HE HAD BEEN WAITING FOR THIS ALL ALONG!
を
た！
ここ
おじ
FROM THIS POINT ON,
と
やんは
枚
「
HE STARTED SENDING EVEN MORE YUKICHI'S MONO-LOGUES THAN EVER!
」

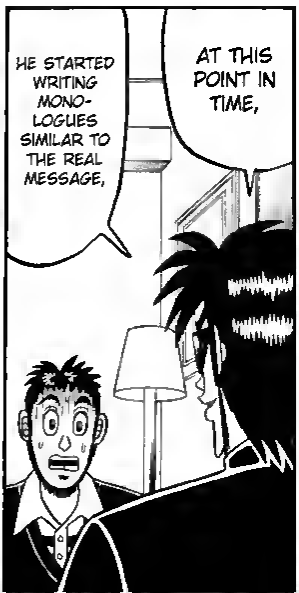
AND BECAUSE CUTTING THE TOP OF EACH BILL,
BECAME EVEN MORE TROUBLE-SOME,

HE DECIDED INSTEAD,
TO DEPOSIT THEM AT SOME ATM,
AND THEN WITHDRAW MONEY,
TO GET FRESH, NEW BILLS!

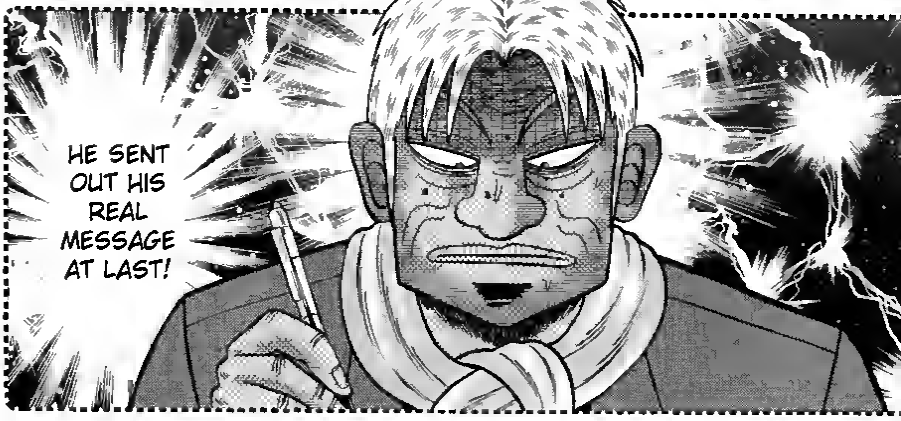
AND SKIP THE HASSLE OF CUTTING THE TOPS,
IT WAS THE PERFECT WAY TO AVOID SUSPICION,
THE ONLY DOWNSIDE,
WHILE STILL SPENDING THE MONEY!
WAS THAT THE BILLS WITH HIS WRITING WOULD BE SPREAD AROUND,
BUT THAT WOULDN'T REVEAL WHERE THE BILLS CAME FROM,
SO IT WAS ESSENTIALLY RISK-FREE!
NIPPON
THERE WAS NO REASON AT ALL,
SO IN SHORT,
TO KEEP CUTTING THESE MEANINGLESS RAMBLINGS!

この直に
THE CARE-TAKER,
おじ
賭け
HAD FALLEN RIGHT INTO KIJUROU'S TRAP!
らゃんは
!

SO THAT WHEN HE DID WRITE THE REAL ONE,
IT WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO DISTINGUISH!
Spring of Yugen,
Light at Fuefuki River,
Horsetail, Dandelions,
Tri-coloured rainbow


AT THIS POINT IN TIME,
HE STARTED WRITING MONOLOGUES SIMILAR TO THE REAL MESSAGE,

The tranquil spring,
Buddha at the Five
Lakes of Fuji, Butterflies
and Water Buffalo,
The two frolic merrily
AFTER SENDING MANY OF THEM OUT,
NIPPON GIN

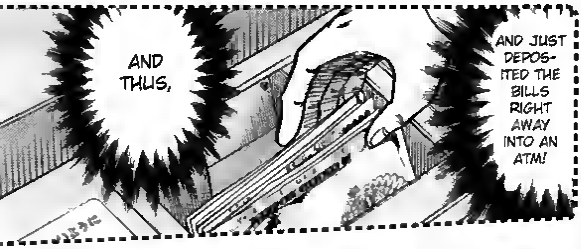

HE SENT OUT HIS REAL MESSAGE AT LAST!

THAT MAY OR MAY NOT CARRY A SECRET MESSAGE..
A CRYPTIC POEM,

IF THIS HAD BEEN THE FIRST MESSAGE HE HAD SENT, THE CARE-TAKER WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY SUSPICIOUS OF IT.

NIPPON GRILL

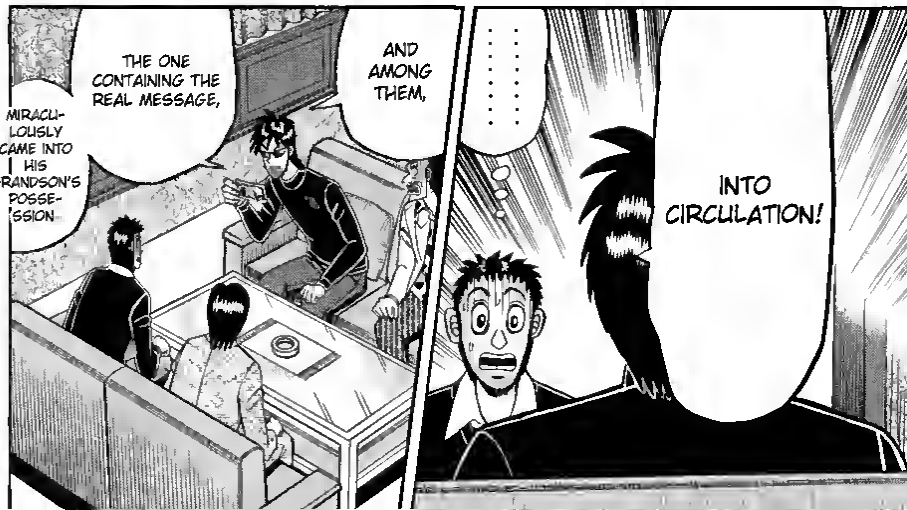
Spring of Confinement,
Treasure at Mt. Fuji's Peak,
Between the Dragon and Tiger,
Shadows of 6 Birds (3779)
Before the Cherry Blossoms Fall
忠
BUT THE CARETAKER'S SENSES HAD LONG BEEN DULLED!
ないっ!


AND THUS,
AND JUST DEPOSITED THE BILLS RIGHT AWAY INTO AN ATM!

THE SOS MESSAGE HAD SPREAD AT LAST!

HE LIKELY STOPPED CHECKING ALTOGETHER.
IN FACT, BY THIS POINT,

HAD FINALLY ENTERED,
~20 OF THESE BILLS,


MIRACU-LOUSLY CAME INTO HIS GRANDSON'S POSSE-SSION
THE ONE CONTAINING THE REAL MESSAGE,
AND AMONG THEM,
.....
INTO CIRCULATION!

YOU SENSED THE DESPERATE PLEA FOR HELP,
AND EVEN MORE MIRACULOUSLY,
YOU CORRECTLY GUESSED THAT IT WAS AN SOS MESSAGE FROM YOUR GRAND-FATHER!
HIDDEN BETWEEN THE LINES OF THESE MONO-LOGUES!
SO LET'S GO SAVE HIM!
AHH!

AND MOVES HIM TO ANOTHER PLACE!
BEFORE THE PERPETRATOR CATCHES ON,
WE HAVE TO QUICKLY GO SAVE HIM,
AND HAVE HIS PATIENCE,
LET'S ANSWER HIS CALL,
BEAR FRUIT AT LAST!
[6巻につづく]
TRANSLATED BY HOX

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作品初出／週刊少年マガジン2012年第20号から第29号

講談社コミックス デラックス KCDX3286

賭博覇王伝 零（ゼロ） ギャン鬼編（きへん）⑤

2012年 8月17日 第1刷発行（定価はカバーに表示してあります）

著 者 福本伸行（ふくもとのぶゆき）
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発行者 清水保雅
発行所 株式会社 講談社
〒112-8001 東京都文京区音羽2-12-21
電話番号 編集部 東京(03)5395-3459
販売部 東京(03)5395-3608
業務部 東京(03)5395-3603
印刷所 株式会社廣済堂
本文製版所 株式会社二葉写真製版
製本所 株式会社国宝社

講談社

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N.D.C.726 184p 19cm Printed in Japan ISBN978-4-06-376686-8

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大丈夫！

必ず見つけてくる！
次へ繋がるヒントを！

一方、莫大な財産を狙う者達も謎に取りかかる!

"冬"発売予定!!!!

零にとって最大のライバル!?
天才児・宝条タツキも、社長サイドのブレインとして参戦!!!
どんだけ頭がいい？
どんだけ強い？
キキ
それが興味深い！
裏ギャンブル
謎が謎を呼ぶ
暗号を解けるのは、
一体誰か・・・・!?
賭博覇王伝
ゼロ
ギャン鬼
GYANKI
ZERO
KCDX
第6巻2012年